PARLEMETER 2020

A GLIMPSE OF CERTAINTY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Eurobarometer Survey 94.2 of the European Parliament
A Public Opinion Monitoring Study

European Parliament

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The economic impact of the pandemic is growing

53% believe that the economic situation in their country will be worse than today in one year's time.

The EU Recovery Plan will help, say three quarters of respondents

Nearly three in four EU citizens (72%) believe that the EU Recovery Plan will help their country's economy to recover more rapidly from the adverse effects of the pandemic.

The unified EU action against the pandemic boosts the positive image of the EU

Despite the current context, 50% of respondents have a positive image of the EU. This is an increase of 10 points compared to 2019.

Two thirds of Europeans say EU membership is a good thing

The proportion of Europeans who say that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing has reached an all-time high since 2007 (63%).

72% say their country has benefitted from EU membership

Respondents see the EU's contribution to economic growth (40%; +9 pp) and the improvement of co-operation between EU countries (39%; +5 pp) as main reasons.

Citizens question the direction both EU and Member States are heading to

While Europeans are more likely to say things are going in the right direction in the EU than in their country (39% against 33%), around half of all respondents (45% and 56%) question the direction the EU and their country are going to.

44% say yes to EU, but want reform

A clear majority of respondents (71%) are in favour of the European Union. Nearly half of Europeans (44%) support the EU, but not the way it has worked until now.

More Europeans than ever before want the EP to play a more important role

Nearly two thirds of Europeans (63%: +5pp) would like to see a more important role for the European Parliament in the future.

Fight against poverty and social inequalities is the new top priority for citizens

48% of respondents think that the main priority of the European Parliament should be to fight poverty and social inequalities.

Solidarity between EU Member States becomes an important value for EP to defend

In the context of fighting the consequences of the pandemic, 41% of Europeans now say that the European Parliament should defend solidarity between EU Member States, an increase of 8 points since 2019.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Covid-19 pandemic and the EU-driven response to it seem to have strengthened citizens' beliefs that the European Union is the right place to seek out working solutions. More respondents on average see things on the right path at the EU level in comparison with their own country. 66% are optimistic about the future of the European Union, and nearly three out of four respondents (72%) believe the EU Recovery Plan will allow their country's economy to recover more rapidly from the negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

EU response action in 2020 might therefore also be the reason for the rising level of support for the EU towards the end of last year. Compared to autumn 2019, we see an increase of ten percentage points of citizens expressing a positive view of the EU (50%) at the end of 2020.

Nevertheless, in the continuing pandemic citizens are not doing well and have little hope that things would improve over the next year: An absolute majority of respondents believe their country's economic situation will be worse in one year's time, a similar proportion believes their individual financial situation will not improve.

These worries seem to influence also citizens' political priorities and core values. Nearly half of all respondents want the European Parliament to put the fight against poverty and social inequalities at the top of its agenda. And 41% of respondents (+8 points compared to autumn 2019) call on parliament to defend solidarity between Member States as core European value.

The shift in priorities and values is also mirrored when looking at citizens' support for the European Union and their appreciation of the European Parliament. While 63% of respondents want the European Parliament to play a more important role in the future, there is a sustained expectation of respondents for a change in the way the EU is going about its business: Only 27% support the EU just the way it has been accomplished so far, while 44% 'rather support the EU' but want to see reform being brought about. The message of this survey seems clear: There is support for the EU and there is a clear appreciation that the EU the right place to seek and implementation solutions to the crisis. But reform is clearly on the agenda, too.

Continuing pandemic reinforces pessimism for the future

With an ongoing, full-blown second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic at the end of 2020, the economic and personal consequences on citizens across the European Union reinforces people's pessimism for the future. The three special surveys commissioned by the European Parliament in 2020[1], focusing on public opinion in times of Covid-19, clearly demonstrate how closely connected citizens' attitudes during the crisis developed during, and changed with, the ongoing pandemic.

The increase of the pandemic's impact in autumn 2020 reinforced the pessimistic outlook of the public: 53% of respondents believe that the economic situation in their country will be worse in one year's time than it is now. Only one in five respondents (21%) believe that the national economic situation would improve over the coming year.

More than half of respondents (52%) expect their individual living conditions in one year's time to be the same as today. One quarter of respondents (24%) believe they will even be worse off in one year's time, while only 21% think that they would be better off. This needs to be seen in the context of the widely perceived deterioration of individual personal financial situations over the course of 2020. Specifically, respondents who say they encounter more difficulties paying bills would expect the national economic situation to further deteriorate over the next twelve months.

There is a significant east-west gap in how people see the evolution of their living conditions over the coming year. Slovakia (43%), Greece (40%), Romania (36%), Bulgaria (35%) and Slovenia (35%) are the countries with the biggest share of pessimistic respondents. In the northwest, only 7% of Danes and Dutch respondents believe that their living conditions would deteriorate in the next year. When it comes to evolution of the national economy over the next twelve months, citizens' opinion are considerably more pessimistic and geographically wide-spread. In three Member States - Latvia (68%), France (67%) and Czechia (67%) - more than two in three nationals think that the economy will be worse off. The highest proportion of citizens expecting the economy to improve over the year can be found in Malta (42%), Ireland (39%) and Estonia (34%).

Pessimism regarding their personal future or the state of their country's economy seems to have a direct impact on how respondents see the EU. On average, 50% of respondents hold a positive view of the EU and just 14% would say that it is negative. The positive figure goes up to 67% among those who predict that their country's economy will improve. On the other hand, only 43% of those who are pessimistic

1 Public Opinion in the EU in times of the Coronavirus crisis (April 2020): https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/public-opinion-in-the-eu-in-time-of-coronavirus-crisis

Public Opinion in the EU in times of the Coronavirus crisis (June 2020): https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/public-opinion-in-the-eu-in-time-of-coronavirus-crisis-2

Public Opinion in the EU in times of the Coronavirus crisis (October 2020): https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/public-opinion-in-the-eu-in-time-of-coronavirus-crisis-3 regarding the future of their economy hold a positive view of the EU. The same result is obtained when it comes to a question on personal living conditions: 61% of respondents who are optimistic about their situation over the next year also hold a positive view of the EU, while only 36% of those who are pessimistic also view the EU favourably.

On average, respondents perceive that things are slightly more on the right path at the EU level in comparison with their own country: 39% believe that "things are going in the right direction in the EU", while only 33% would say the same about the direction their country was currently heading in. Nevertheless, the proportion of respondents believing that things are going in the wrong direction in the EU is higher (45%) - with striking differences when looking at the age of respondents: Only 36% of Europe's youth (16 - 24 years) see the EU going in the wrong direction, while this figure grows to 49% for Europeans aged from 40 to 54. In ten Member States a plurality of respondents say the EU is going in the "wrong direction", namely in Finland (60%) Spain (59%), Greece (56%), France (54%), Czechia (53%), Sweden (51%), Croatia (51%), Italy (50%), Slovakia (47%), Cyprus (45%) and Austria (45%).

And yet, despite this perceived uncertainty, there is a glimmer of hope: Like other recent Eurobarometer publications, the 2020 Parlemeter shows that citizens see the European Union as the right place for working solutions to be adopted and where concrete help should come from: 66% of respondents are optimistic about the future of the European Union, with only 31% holding a negative view. Nearly three out of four respondents (72%) believe the EU Recovery Plan will allow their country's economy to recover more rapidly from the negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

A stronger role for the European Parliament - and a shift in priorities

While the conclusion of the Brexit negotiations or the events surrounding the US presidential election might well have had an impact on public opinion, the Covid-19 pandemic and the EU-driven response to the latter seem to have strengthened citizens' belief that the European Union could and should be the right place to seek out working solutions. This strengthened view also has a direct impact on how citizens see the European Parliament.

37% of respondents now hold a positive view of the European Parliament, the highest level reached since 2007. 63% of respondents want the European Parliament to play a more important role in the future, an increase of 5 points compared to autumn 2019. Whereas Czechia, Greece and France are the three only countries with a higher number of respondents holding a negative image of the EP than a positive one, the question about the role of Parliament shows more national differences: In Czechia (56%), Slovakia (54%), Sweden (54%), Denmark (52%), Finland (51%) and Austria (44%) a majority of respondents would prefer the EP to have a lesser role.

With the growing public expectations of the European Parliament's role, a shift in public priorities can be observed. Likely driven by the ongoing pandemic and its perceived consequences on citizens' personal and financial situations, this Parlemeter shows a new top priority expressed across the EU: 48% of respondents want the EP to put the fight against poverty and social inequalities at the top of its agenda. This is indeed the first priority in all EU Member States apart from Finland, Czechia, Denmark and Sweden, where the fight against terrorism and crime (35% on EU average) comes first (48%, 51%, 52% and 55% respectively). On EU average, measures to ensure a quality education for all (33%) as well as to protect our environment (32%) follow suit.

While no direct comparison to previous surveys is possible on this question, this shift in priorities is one of the biggest changes registered in this survey. A similar shift also appears in citizens' ranking of the top values the European Parliament should defend. While the first and second positions remain unchanged compared to 2019, human rights (51%) and equality between men and women (42%), there is an astonishing increase for solidarity between Member States: 41% of respondents want the European Parliament to defend this value above all others, compared to 33% one year ago.

Yes to the EU – but not the way it has been accomplished so far

Looking at support levels for the European Union in general, the survey finds an increase of ten percentage points in the number of citizens who expressed a positive view of the EU (50%) at the end of 2020, in contrast to 14% with a negative view of the EU. Despite the positive development in the EU average results, national differences remain strong, ranging from a positive view of the EU of 77% in Ireland to the lowest result measured figure in Austria of just 36%.

Another set of trending questions in the Parlemeter measures whether respondents believe EU membership to be a good or a bad thing for their country, and whether they feel that their country has benefitted overall from being a member of the EU.

Results to both trending questions are positive: With 63% of respondents on EU-average saying that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, this indicator reaching its highest result since 2007. Positive replies to this question represent the majority in all EU Member States, apart from Italy and Austria where respondents first cite "neither good nor bad" (44% and 43% respectively). A large majority of Europeans (72% +4 p.p.) also say that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU. Asked about the reasons for this assessment, 40% of respondents (+9 points) see economic growth as main reason, with co-operation among EU countries coming a close second with 39% of mentions (+5 points).

Going back to the beginning of this survey's analysis, where pessimism about the future and doubt about the way forward for the European Union were expressed, a certain expectation for change is a feature of these survey results: there is widespread support for the EU, but 44% of Europeans say they are "rather in favour of the European Union, but not the way it has been realised until now". This view is in first place in 16 countries (PT, DE, LU, NL, SE, HR, SK, SI, BE, AT, CZ, ES, FR, IT, CY and EL).

79% of respondents who would be most open to EU reform believe that their country has, on balance, benefited from being a member of the EU. More than half of them (56%) are also satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU. On the other hand, 51% do not believe that "their voice counts in the EU", while a wide majority (70%) want to see a stronger role for the European Parliament.

27% of respondents are "in favour of the EU in the way it has been realised until now". This is the dominant view in ten countries overall (IE, PL, LT, EE, HU, RO, DK, LV, MT and BG). On the other side of the spectrum, 22% of citizens say they are "rather sceptical but could change their view if radical reforms of the Union were brought about", while only 5% say they are opposed to the idea of the EU in general. These views are strongest in countries such as Cyprus (38% and 3% respectively), Greece (35% and 9%), France (31% and 8%) as well as Austria (31% and 7%).

Conclusions

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit everyone hard globally - and the European Union has by no means been spared its devastating consequences. The Parliament's 2020 surveys demonstrate the impact of the pandemic on citizens' lives and livelihoods. In October 2020, more than a third of respondents (39%) said that the Covid-19 pandemic had already had an impact on their personal income, with a further 27% expecting such an impact in the future. Uncertainty was the emotion most commonly felt by European citizens at the end of the last year, with more people expressing uncertainty, helplessness, fear, anger and frustration again compared to the situation in early summer 2020.[2]

In the midst of a second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic ravaging the continent, people's personal outlook for the near future remains dire. More than half of all respondents believe that the economic situation in their country will be even worse in one year's time. About the same proportion of citizens do not foresee any improvement in their individual living conditions over this time.

In contrast to this dire outlook, the hope expressed by a growing number of citizens that the European Union would come up with the right answers in this crisis stands out. Both the European Union, in general, and the European Parliament, specifically, receive wide-spread and reinforced support from citizens. Surely, the pandemic, as was likely with other events happening during the time of the fieldwork, such as the final Brexit negotiations or the US presidential elections, seem to have reinforced public belief that a strong European Union is needed to overcome the crisis and tackle future challenges.

2 Public Opinion in the EU in times of the Coronavirus crisis (October 2020): https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/public-opinion-in-the-eu-in-time-of-coronavirus-crisis-3

Yet two important lessons can be drawn from the results of the present survey. First, while there is clear overall support for the EU in general, there is also, similarly, a clear plurality who want the European Union to change its way of doing business. The crisis has upended many things over the past year and there no longer is a majority who support continuing with 'business as usual'. Not even three in ten respondents say they are "in favour of the EU as it has been realised by now", compared to 44% who remain "rather in favour, but not in the way the EU has been realised until now". This clear call for reform has also been expressed already several times by the European Parliament with regard to the upcoming Conference on the Future of Europe.

The second significant change is noticeable when looking at citizens' priorities. The pandemic gives rise to a new top policy priority expressed by citizens for the European Parliament: fighting against poverty and social inequalities. This goes hand in hand with a second lesson learned (or perhaps rather experienced) during the past months: for the first time ever citizens put solidarity between EU Members States on top of the list of values that the European Parliament should defend.

CONTEXT

The fieldwork for the Parlemeter 2020 was carried out by Kantar between 20 November and 21 December 2020 in all 27 EU Member States. At the time, the pandemic still had a firm grip on the continent with many Member States imposing lockdowns to prevent the uncontrolled spread of Covid-19 in its second wave. Public health systems in many Member States had come under severe pressure. With Christmas holidays approaching, many governments decided not to ease existing measures or even to tighten them further, with shops and school closures spreading. Discussions on banning skiing trips over the Christmas holidays in the entire EU emerged and were partially implemented.

At the same time there were encouraging news from the vaccine development front. In November, three major biotech firms (Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca) announced positive results on their coronavirus vaccines, increasing hope for the rollout of immunisation programmes across the world in 2021. Already in June, the European Commission had presented a European vaccine strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing and deployment of vaccines against COVID-19. As core part of this strategy, the EC had negotiated and concluded advance purchase agreements with vaccine developers on behalf of the EU countries[3].

The European Parliament approved a temporary derogation from certain rules for clinical trials to allow vaccines to be developed faster and called for even more solidarity when it comes to vaccinations and transparency regarding contracts with pharmaceutical companies[4].

Over the course of 2020 the pandemic has been evolving at different speeds and has been affecting unevenly the EU Member States. While in one Member State infection rates might be dropping, others experienced a significant rise of case numbers. During the fieldwork period for the Parlemeter, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Poland and the Netherlands were among the Member States that saw their national COVID-19 infection rates soaring.

At the end of the third quarter of 2020, still impacted by policy responses to the COVID-19 containment measures, which materialised in increased financing needs, the government debt to GDP ratio in the euro area stood at 97.3%, compared with 95.0% at the end of the second quarter of 2020. In the EU, the ratio increased from 87.7% to 89.8%. Compared with the third quarter of 2019, the government debt to GDP ratio rose in both the euro area (from 85.8% to 97.3%) and the EU (from 79.2% to 89.8%): the increases are due to two factors - government debt increasing considerably, and GDP decreasing.

3 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1103
4 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0203_EN.html

Compared with the third quarter of 2019, all Member States registered an increase in their debt to GDP ratio at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The largest increases in the ratio were recorded in Cyprus (+22.9 pp), Italy (+17.4 pp), Greece (+17.3 pp), Spain (+16.6 pp) and France (+16.5 pp)[5].

The labour market across the European Union recovered to some extent throughout the third quarter 2020 as most Member States relaxed their COVID-19 measures. Persons who had been temporarily absent from work thus returned to work, and those who had been unable to search for a job or had been unavailable to take up a job returned to the labour force. This has contributed to an increase in both employment and unemployment, and to a slight decrease of the overall labour market slack[6].

According to EUROSTAT, the EU 27 unemployment rate was 7.5% in November 2020, down from 7.6% in October 2020 and up from 6.6% in November 2019. Moreover, on November 2020, the youth unemployment rate was 17.7% in the EU and 18.4% in the euro area, up from 17.5% and 18.0% respectively in the previous month[7].

After Chancellor Merkel and French President Macron had cleared the way for joint EU debt in June, the German EU Presidency was able to secure the necessary agreement of the other EU countries to a historic recovery package of 1.8 trillion euros at the EU summit in July. On 10 November, the European Parliament and the EU Council reached an agreement as co-legislators on the EU's recovery package and long-term budget. In these negotiations the European Parliament had managed to secure much-needed additional funding for EU flagship programmes in the fields of health, education and research as well as anchoring the rule of law conditionality for the allocation of EU funds.

However, on 16 November, Poland and Hungary blocked approval of the EU's budget opposing to this rule-of-law mechanism that could cause them to lose EU subsidies if they continue with policies seen as eroding democratic standards. At the meeting of the European Council on 10 December and after fierce negotiations, Member States settled their dispute over the EU Multiannual Financial Framework and the EU Recovery Fund, with Hungary and Poland dropping their objections to a mechanism tying payments to rule of law principles. On 15 December, Parliament in plenary gave its consent to the final version of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) it has helped to shape so that EU support can get to citizens as from the start of 2021[8].

Negotiations with the United Kingdom on the country's post-Brexit relationship with the EU proved to be similarly difficult. Throughout 2020, both sides managed to continue negotiations despite pandemic related restrictions, repeated cancellation threats made by the British side and numerous expired deadlines.

5 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/portlet_file_entry/2995521/2-21012021-AP-EN.pdf/a3748b22-e96e-7f62-ba05-11c7192e32f3
6 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/portlet_file_entry/2995521/3-11012021-AP-EN.pdf/9a87244e-159c-6ddb-f9cc-705c225b24ac
7 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/portlet_file_entry/2995521/3-08012021-AP-EN.pdf/fc360f72-ff0d-ecc0-df77-2bd9c7549825
8 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0260_EN.html

By the end of the fieldwork period, negotiations on a post-Brexit trade agreement were still ongoing, exhibiting significant differences, notably on fishing rights. However, both parties came to an agreement in late December, with the EU having maintained its unity and solidarity until the end[9].

To meet the objective of a climate-neutral EU by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement, the European Council endorsed in late December a binding EU target of a net domestic reduction of at least 55% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990. On 28 November 2019, Parliament had declared a climate emergency in Europe and urged all EU countries to commit to net-zero GHG emissions by 2050[10].

COVID-19 put an unprecedented dampener on global mobility this year, but it did not put a complete hold on asylum seekers and migrants attempting dangerous journeys to cross borders and seas in search of safety and economic opportunity. The number of detections of illegal border crossings along the EU's external borders fell by 13% last year to around 124 000, in large part due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions put in place by various countries, according to preliminary figures collected by Frontex. This was the lowest number of illegal border crossings since 2013[11].

However, the inhuman living conditions in refugee camps on the Greek islands and the Western Balkans kept resurfacing in media reports and public discourse as well as illegal pushbacks of migrants. The EC's proposal on a "New Pact on Migration and Asylum" first published on 23 September keeps dividing Member States[12].

At the time of fieldwork, EU-Turkey relations were at a low over a fight concerning competing maritime claims in the eastern Mediterranean and Turkish warships, and gas-drilling vessels routinely violated Greek and Cypriot-claimed waters. In its November plenary session, the European Parliament adopted a resolution asking Turkey to withdraw troops from Cyprus and reverse the partial opening of the Varosha district in Famagusta[13].

In addition, following continued police violence against demonstrators, the European Parliament adopted a resolution urging the EU to extend its sanctions against Belarus and freeze all EU Funds to the current Belarussian Government. On 16 December, the EP paid tribute to Belarus protesters by awarding the 2020 Sakharov Prize to the Belarusian democratic opposition[14].

Romania held legislative elections on 6 December 2020 to elect the 330 members of its Chamber of Deputies and the 136 members of the Senate. The Social Democratic Party (PSD) scored a surprise win in Romania's parliamentary elections, which saw a record low turnout of voters amid the coronavirus pandemic.

9 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531
10 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2019-0078_EN.html
11 https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/irregular-migration-into-eu-last-year-lowest-since-2013-due-to-covid-19-j34zp2
12 https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/migration-and-asylum-package-new-pact-migration-and-asylum-documents-adopted-23-september-2020_en
13 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0332_EN.html
14 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0331_EN.html

The PSD got 30 per cent of the vote, followed by the ruling, centre-right National Liberal Party, PNL, with 25 per cent. Third came the centrist alliance USR PLUS with 14 per cent. Two weeks later, the ruling National Liberal Party, PNL, the centrist USR PLUS alliance and the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania, UDMR, sealed a deal to form a coalition government.

Last, but not least, US presidential elections had taken place on 3 November 2020 and resulted in an election win by Democratic candidate Joe Biden against the incumbent President Donald Trump. However, at the time of the fieldwork for this survey, President Trump was still not conceding his defeat and legally challenging the outcome in some of the key states.

Note

As a result of the UK leaving the European Union on 31 January 2020, the Union now has 27 Member States. The overall EU level results presented in this report are therefore based on EU27, and not EU28 as was the case in surveys before 2020. Care should therefore be taken interpreting the results from the current wave with previous results.

For trend questions, the evolution of results from the previous survey is sometimes shown with EU28 and sometimes with EU27.

Caveat

Because of the pandemic, fieldwork was conducted online in some countries (see more details in the technical note at the end of this report). Evolutions with the previous wave, where fieldwork in all countries was conducted face to face, should be analysed with caution, as differences in the administration modalities between online and face-to-face surveys can impact the results.

LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC: TODAY AND TOMORROW

The first chapter of the report examines life in the EU during the coronavirus pandemic. A key concern during the pandemic has been the impact on employment, household finances and the wider economy.

In the latest Standard Eurobarometer, conducted in the summer of 2020, the economic situation was seen as the most important issue facing both the EU and individual countries, with sharp increases seen since the previous survey. There was also increasing concern with unemployment and the state of Member States' public finances. The Standard Eurobarometer also found a large negative shift in perceptions of the situation with the national economy[15].

In this context, it is important to monitor EU citizens' expectations for living standards and the economy, and to see how they relate to perceptions of the EU recovery plan, and broader perceptions of how things are going at the national level and in the EU.

It is clear that, despite a pessimistic economic outlook, citizens are increasingly likely to see the EU as being on the right track. In particular, more than seven in ten citizens (72%) think that the EU recovery plan will aid economic recovery for their country. This confidence in the recovery plan feeds into feelings of optimism for the future of the EU.

Difficulties of the respondent in paying bills

Across the EU as whole, 7% of citizens (+1 pp since October 2019) say that they have difficulties paying their bills most of the time, while one in four (25%, +3 pp) have difficulties from time to time. The majority of respondents (67%, -3 pp) say that they never or almost never have difficulties. These findings suggest that problems have increased in the last year, but only by a small amount.

In this context, it is useful to refer to the recent survey Public Opinion in Times of COVID-19, where the majority of EU citizens said either that coronavirus had impacted on their personal income, or they expected it to do so in the future[16]. When asked about the types of impact, some respondents said that they had difficulties paying bills, rent or bank loans, but others referred to loss of income, using savings sooner than planned, and asking family or friends for financial help. Taken together, these results suggest that, while there may not yet have been a major impact on the ability of citizens to pay their bills, these problems may continue to build up over time.

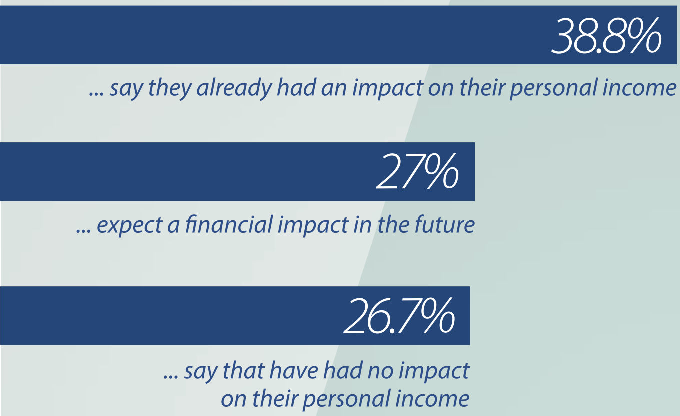
15 Standard Eurobarometer 93. https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/2262

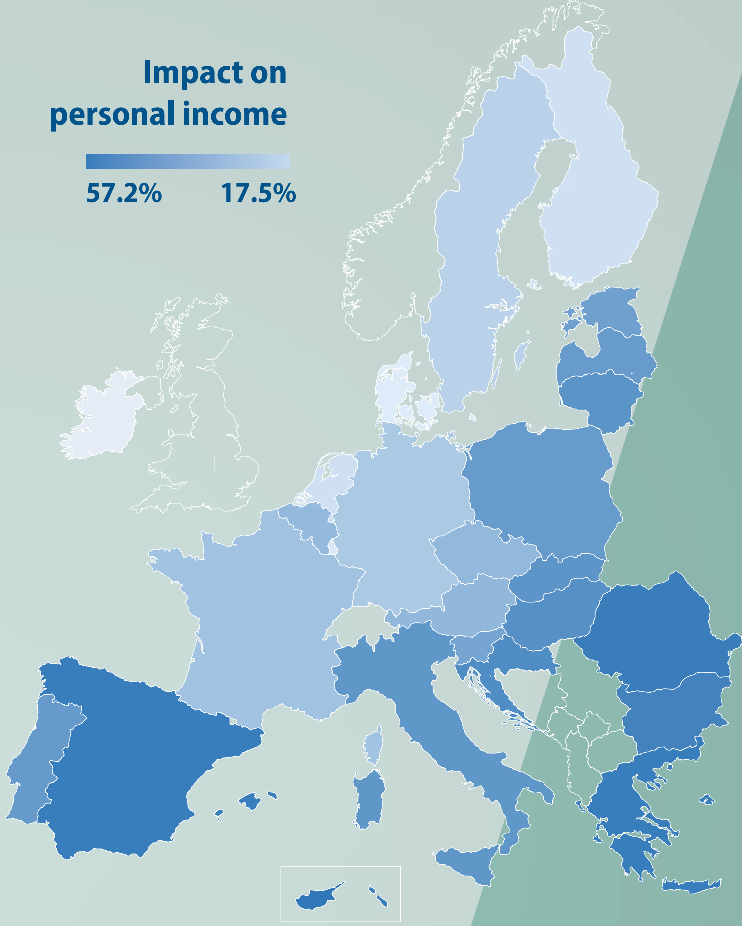
16 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/files/be-heard/eurobarometer/2020/public_opinion_in_the_eu_in_time_of_coronavirus_crisis_3/en-covid19-survey3-report.pdf

Life of Europeans during the pandemic

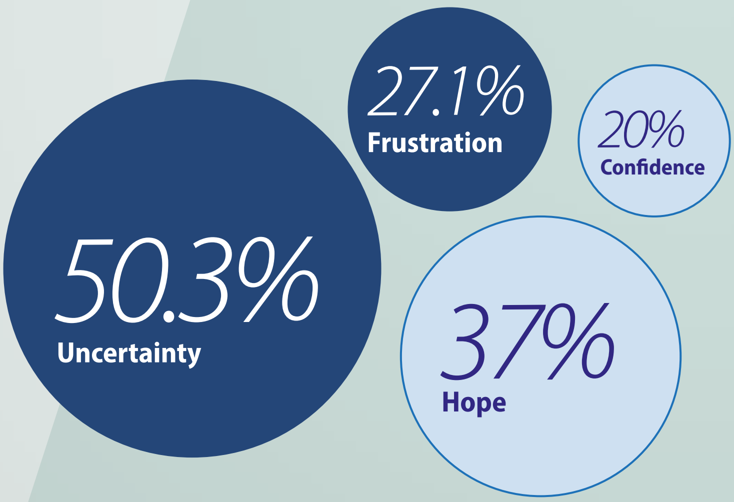
Insights from three EP surveys in 2020

Many Europeans experienced an impact of the pandemic on their personal income

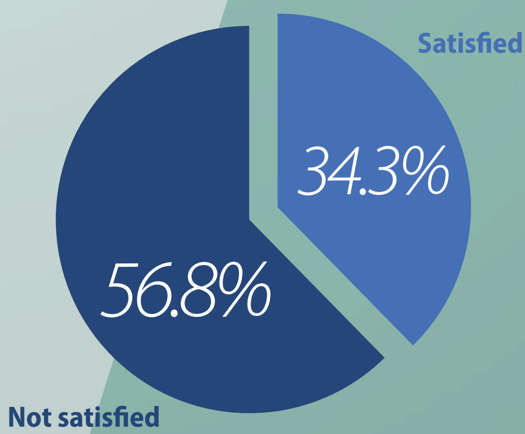




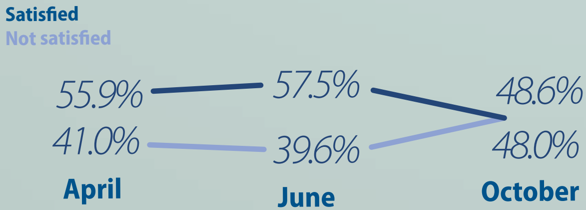
'Uncertainty' was the dominant feeling in 2020, with 'hope' following as second.



Throughout the year, an absolute majority of respondents was also dissatisfied with the lack of solidarity between Member States in fighting the pandemic

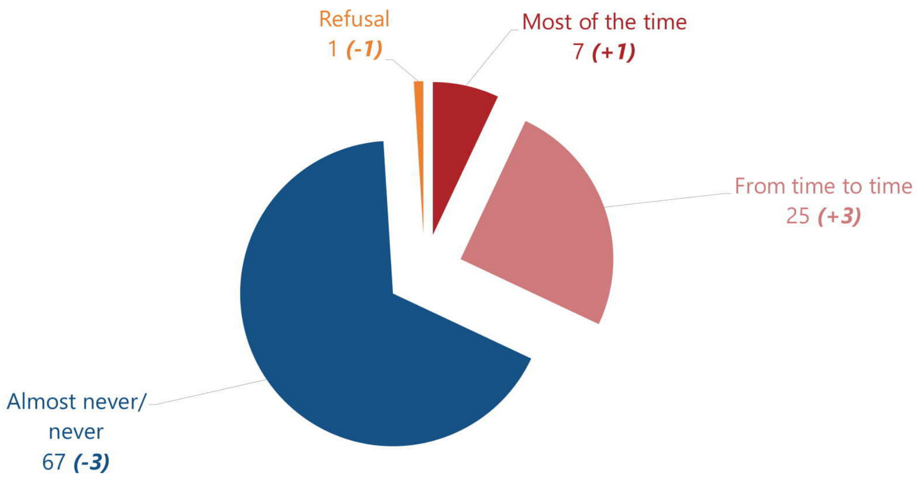


Until autumn 2020 a large majority of citizens were not satisfied with their governments' measures



Source: EP/Kantar online surveys (April-June-October 2020)

SD10 During the last twelve months, would you say you had difficulties to pay your bills at the end of the month...?
(% - EU)



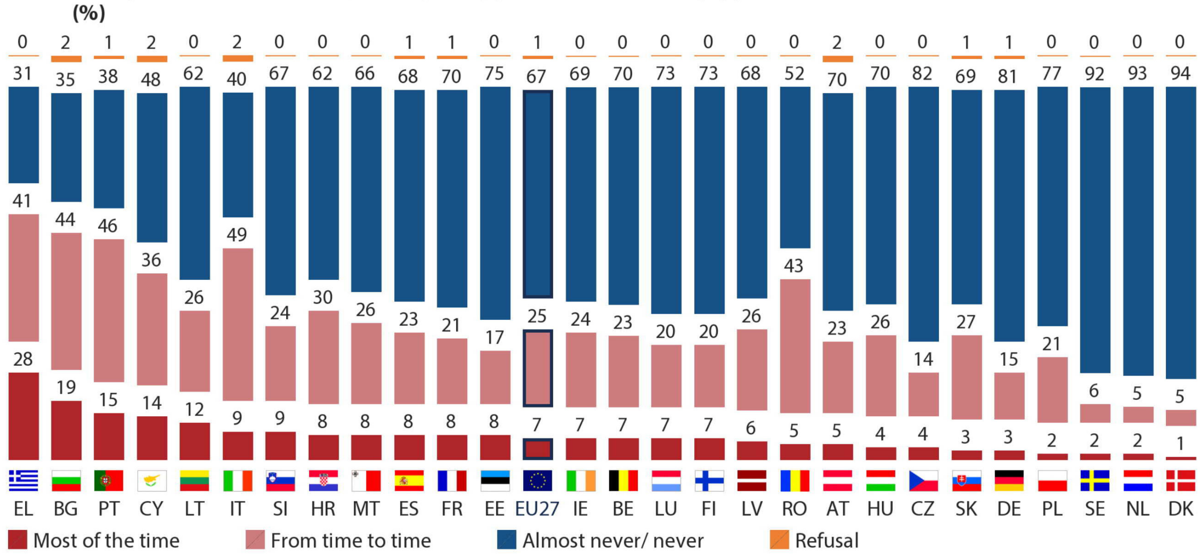
(Nov.-Dec. 2020, EB94.2 - Oct. 2019, EB92.2)

In the Parlemeter 2020, in most Member States, less than one in ten respondents say they have difficulties paying their bills most of the time. In fact, this applies to just 1% in Denmark, and 2% in Poland, Sweden and the Netherlands.

However, there are five Member States where more than one in ten say they have difficulties most of the time. By far the highest proportion can be seen in Greece (28%), followed by Bulgaria (19%), Portugal (15%), Cyprus (14%) and Lithuania (12%).

Italy has the highest proportion of respondents that have difficulties from time to time (49%), and is one of four countries where more than half of citizens have difficulties either most of the time or from time to time, the others being Greece, Bulgaria and Portugal.

SD10 During the last twelve months, would you say you had difficulties to pay your bills at the end of the month...?
(%)



In the socio-demographic analysis, there is a clear link between difficulties in paying bills and level of education. While 11% of those who left education by the age of 15 say they have difficulties most of the time, this applies to just 4% of those who finished education at the age of 20. There is also a large gap when looking at the proportions who rarely or never have difficulties (54% and 78% respectively).

Problems with paying bills are more common among single households with children (12% have difficulties most of the time) and in particular among unemployed respondents (23%), while managers are the most likely of the occupational groups to say that they never or hardly ever have problems (82%).

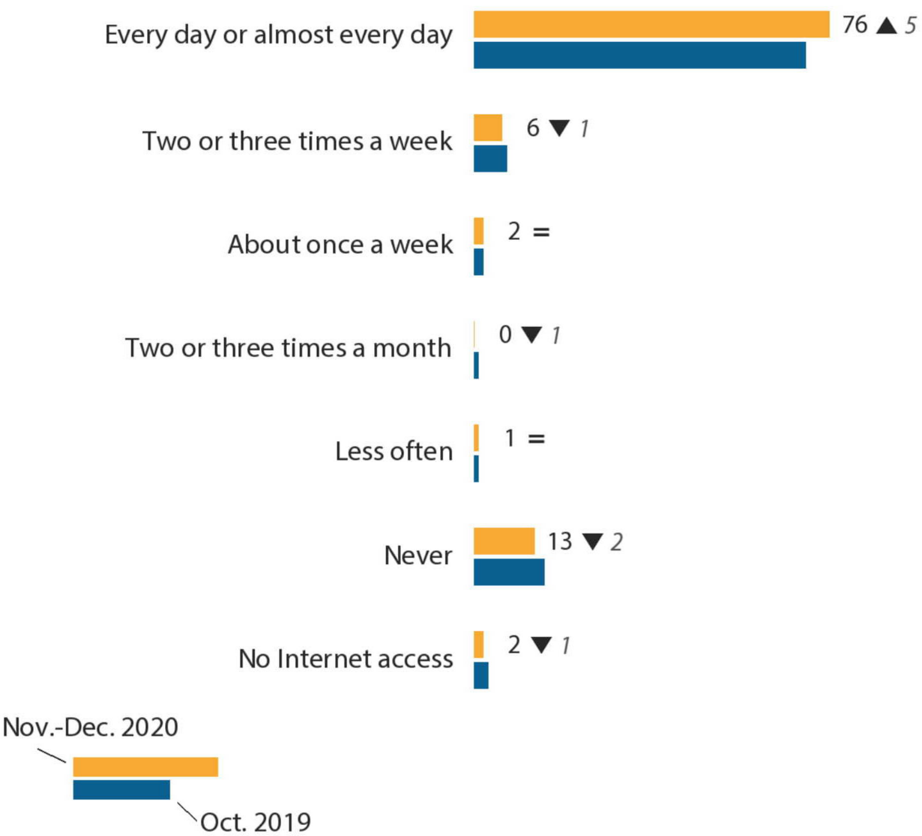
SD10 During the last twelve months, would you say you had difficulties to pay your bills at the end of the month...?
(% - EU)

	Most of the time	From time to time	Almost never/ never	Refusal
EU27	7	25	67	1
Education (End of)				
15-	11	34	54	1
16-19	7	32	61	0
20+	4	17	78	1
Still studying	5	21	70	4
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	6	24	68	2
Managers	2	15	82	1
Other white collars	4	28	67	1
Manual workers	8	32	60	0
House persons	13	35	52	0
Unemployed	23	37	39	1
Retired	5	22	73	0
Students	5	21	70	4
Household situation				
Single household without children	8	25	65	2
Single household with children	12	32	56	0
Multiple household without children	4	22	73	1
Household with children	7	28	64	1

Use of the Internet in your home

Alongside concerns over finances and the economy, a key feature of the pandemic has been the change in working patterns, with a large shift to home-working. This has highlighted the importance of Internet access in the home. Three in four EU citizens (76%, +5 pp since October 2019) say they use the internet at home every day or almost every day, while 9% do so less often. However, more than one in ten citizens (13%, -2 pp) say they never use the Internet at home, and a further 2% (-1 pp) say they have no internet access.

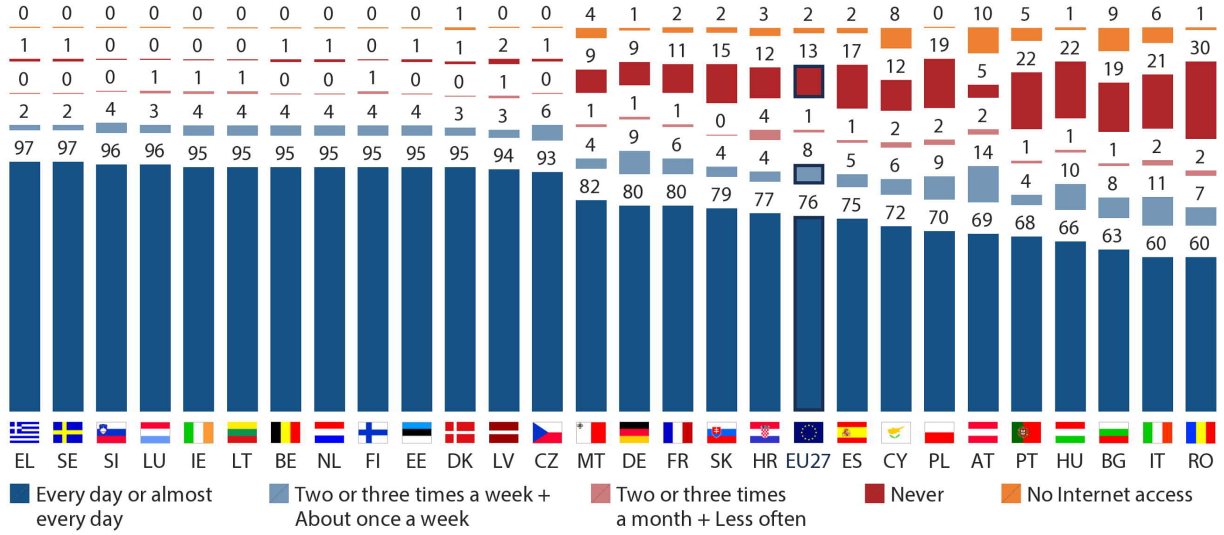
SD11.1 Could you tell me if...?
You use the Internet at home, in your home (% - EU)



There are 13 Member States where more than nine in ten respondents say they use the Internet at home every day or almost every day, with the highest proportions in Greece and Sweden (both 97%). By contrast, less than seven in ten respondents use the Internet at home daily or almost daily in Romania and Italy (both 60%), Bulgaria (63%), Hungary (66%), Portugal (68%) and Austria (69%). In four countries, more than one in four respondents never use the Internet at home or do not have Internet access: Romania (31%), Bulgaria (28%), Italy and Portugal (both 27%).

The socio-demographic analysis shows clear patterns by age and education. While more than nine in ten people aged 15-24 (94%) and 25-39 (92%) use the Internet at home daily or almost daily, this falls to 84%

SD11.1 Could you tell me if...?
You use the Internet at home, in your home (%)



among 40-54 year olds and 57% of those aged 55 or over. A substantial proportion of those still studying also use the internet at home daily or almost daily (97%). Daily or near-daily use of the Internet at home is also high among those who finished education at the age of 20 or above (90%), but is lower among those who ended education at 16-19 (72%) and especially among those who left education by the age of 15 (37%). There is also a slight gender difference, with men more likely than women to use the Internet at home daily or almost daily (78% compared with 74%).

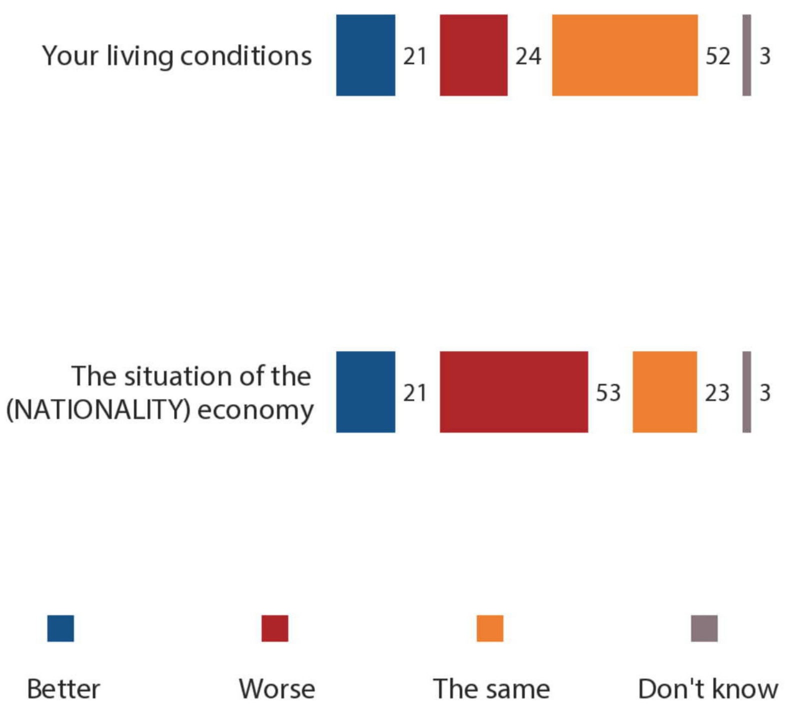
SD11.1 Could you tell me if...?
You use the Internet at home, in your home (% - EU)

	Every day or almost every day	Two or three times a week	About once a week	Two or three times a month	Less often	Never	No Internet access	Often/ Sometimes
EU27	76	6	2	0	1	13	2	8
Gender								
Man	78	5	2	0	1	12	2	8
Woman	74	6	2	1	1	14	2	9
Age								
15-24	94	2	1	0	0	2	1	3
25-39	92	3	1	0	0	3	1	4
40-54	84	6	2	1	1	5	1	9
55+	57	8	2	1	1	27	4	12
Education (End of)								
15-	37	6	2	0	2	45	8	10
16-19	72	7	2	1	1	15	2	12
20+	90	4	1	0	1	3	1	6
Still studying	97	2	0	0	0	1	0	2

Living conditions and economic situation in one year’s time

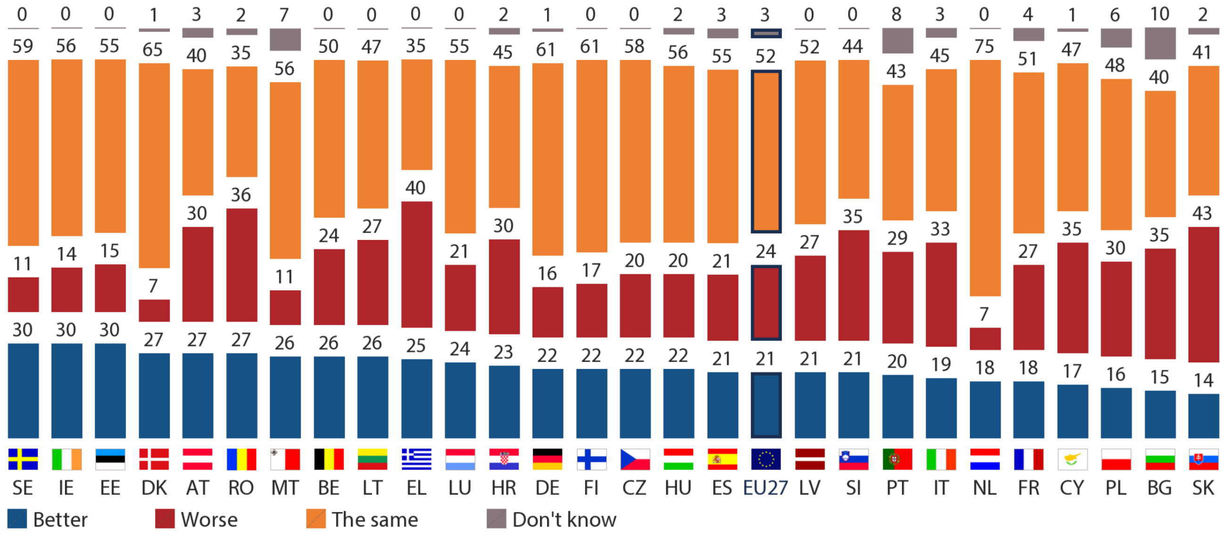
As already discussed, the coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on household finances and employment. In this year’s Parlemeter, EU citizens are divided on whether their living conditions will be better or worse in a year’s time. The majority (52%) think their living conditions will be the same, while 21% think they will be better and 24% worse. Public perceptions are more pessimistic with regards to the national economy: more than half (53%) expect their national economy to be worse in a year’s time, while 21% expect it to be better and 23% the same.

SD20 In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today?
(% - EU)



In most countries, the majority of respondents think that their living conditions will be the same in a year’s time, and this view is particularly prevalent in the Netherlands (75%), Denmark (65%), Germany and Finland (both 61%). There are three exceptions, where the majority view is that living conditions will be worse in a year’s time: Slovakia (43% worse), Greece (40%) and Romania (36%). Overall, there are 12 Member States where respondents are more likely to say living standards will be better rather than worse. Respondents in Sweden, Ireland and Estonia (all 30%) are most likely to expect their living standards to better in a year’s time.

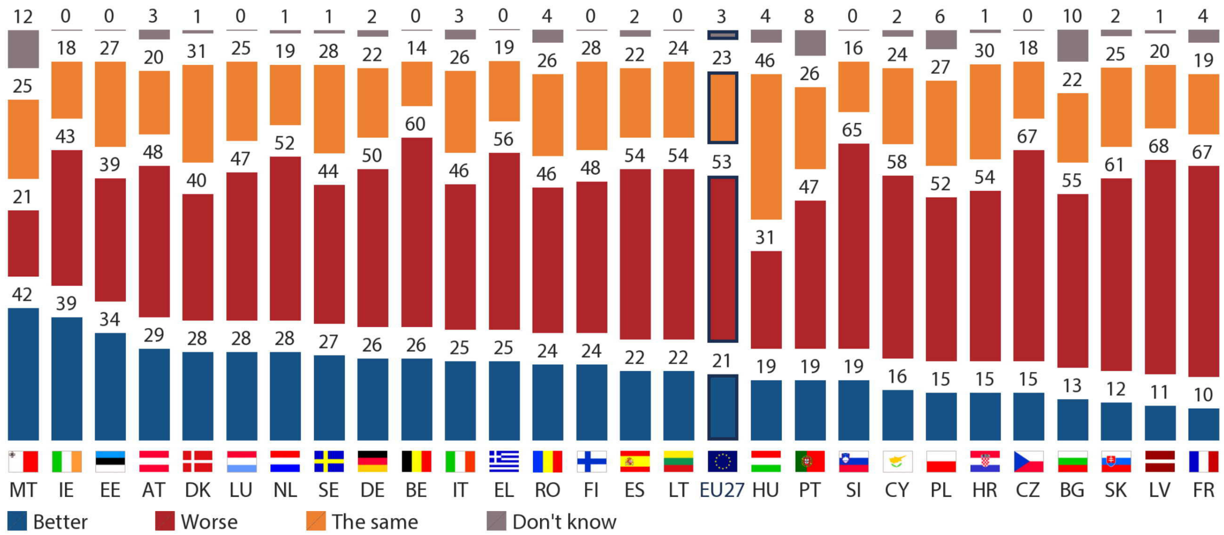
SD20.1 In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today?
Your living conditions (%)



In all but two Member States, the majority of respondents expect the situation of their national economy to get worse in a year's time. Respondents in Latvia (68%), Czechia and France (both 67%) and Slovenia (65%) are most likely to say that the economy will be worse a year from now.

The two exceptions are Malta, where the majority view is that the situation will be better in a year's time, and Hungary, where the majority think it will be the same. Along with Malta (42%), respondents in Ireland (39%) and Estonia (34%) are most likely to expect the situation to be better in a year's time, while Hungary has by far the highest proportion that expect the situation to be the same (46%).

SD20.2 In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today?
The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)



The socio-demographic analysis reveals that younger people have much more positive expectations than older people with regards to their future living standards. While more than a third of 15-24 year olds (36%) think their living standards will be better a year from now, this falls to just 12% of people aged 55 or over. There is also a difference by level of education, with more highly educated respondents more likely to expect an improvement in living standards (23% of those who left education aged 20 or above compared with 12% of those who left education by the age of 15).

When thinking about the national economy, the same pattern applies to level of education: 25% of those who left education aged 20 or above think the situation will improve, compared with 16% of those who left education by the age of 15. However, there is less of an age difference on this issue. In addition, men are more likely than women to think that the national economy will get better in a year's time (24% compared with 19%). On both measures, people who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are more pessimistic than those who rarely or never have difficulties.

SD20 In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today?
Better (% - EU)

	Your living conditions	The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy
EU27	21	21
Gender		
Man	22	24
Woman	20	19
Age		
15-24	36	25
25-39	28	22
40-54	22	21
55+	12	20
Education (End of)		
15-	12	16
16-19	19	18
20+	23	25
Still studying	33	26
Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	17	13
From time to time	20	17
Almost never/ Never	22	23

Things are going in the right/ wrong direction in (OUR COUNTRY) / the EU

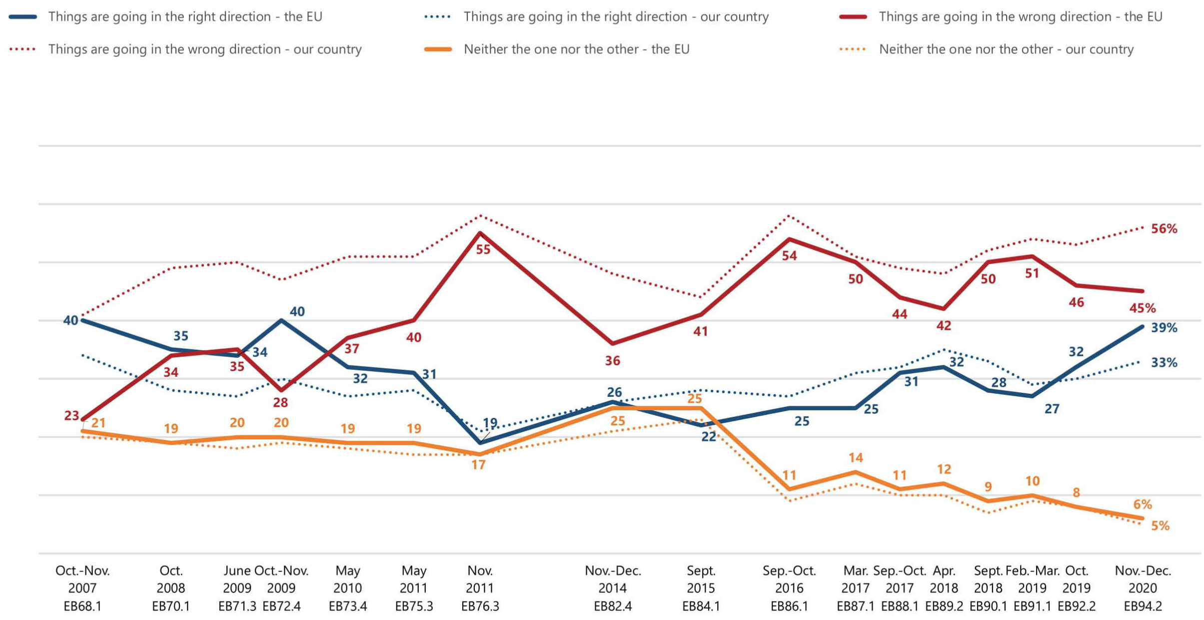
Given the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic, and the widespread feelings of pessimism for the economy, it is useful to take stock of how citizens view the current situation overall, at both the national level and in the EU.

Around four in ten citizens (39%) believe that things are going in the right direction in the EU. That is an increase of 7 percentage points compared with autumn 2019 and a continuation of the positive trend observed since November 2011. The share of citizens feeling that things are going in the wrong direction in the EU is stable since autumn 2019 (45%, -1 pp), and this proportion has been broadly consistent in recent years.

Looking at the national level, more than half of EU citizens (56%, +3 pp since autumn 2019) think that things are going in the wrong direction in their country, while a third say that things are going in the right direction (33%, +3 pp). In recent years, the gap between negative and positive ratings has remained broadly stable.

As a result of the recent changes, perceptions of the direction at the EU level are now clearly more positive than for the national level. In particular, respondents are more likely to feel things are going in the wrong direction in their country than in the EU (56% compared with 45%). In recent years, there has also been a clear if gradual decline in the proportion of neutral ratings, both at the EU and national levels. This suggests that citizens are holding more committed views about the situation they find themselves in.

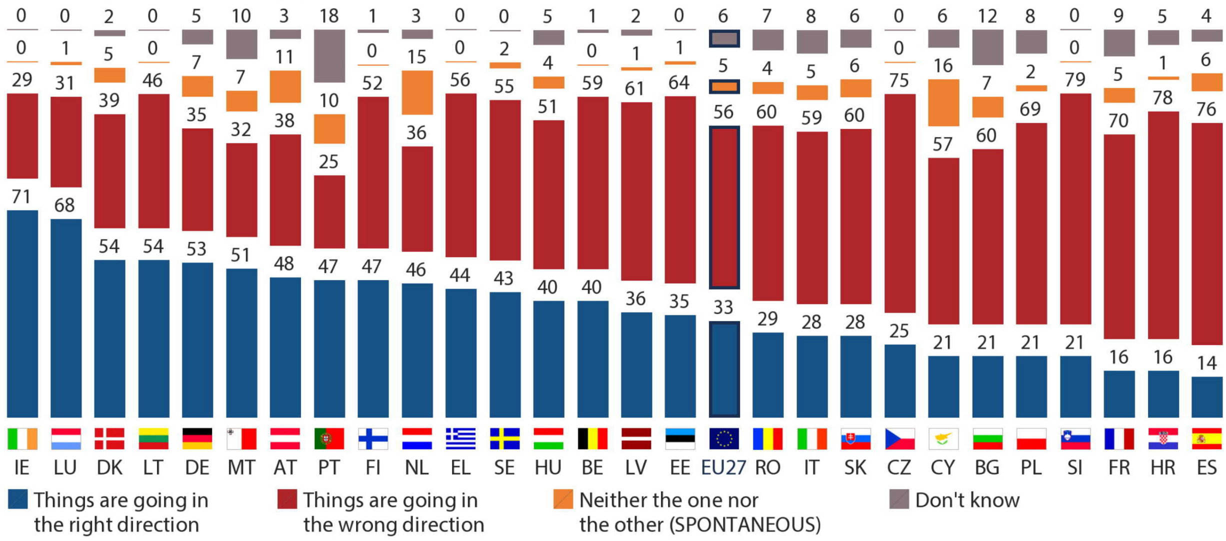
SD15a At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in…?
(OUR COUNTRY/THE EU) (% - EU)



Things are going in the right/wrong direction in (OUR COUNTRY): national analysis

There are nine Member States where a majority of respondents think things are going in the right direction in their country, with Ireland and Luxembourg having by far the highest proportion of positive ratings (71% and 68% respectively). In the other 18 Member States, a majority think that things are going in the wrong direction. Three-quarters of respondents or more think that things are on the wrong track in Slovenia (79%), Croatia (78%), Spain (76%) and Czechia (75%).

SD15a.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? **(OUR COUNTRY) (%)**

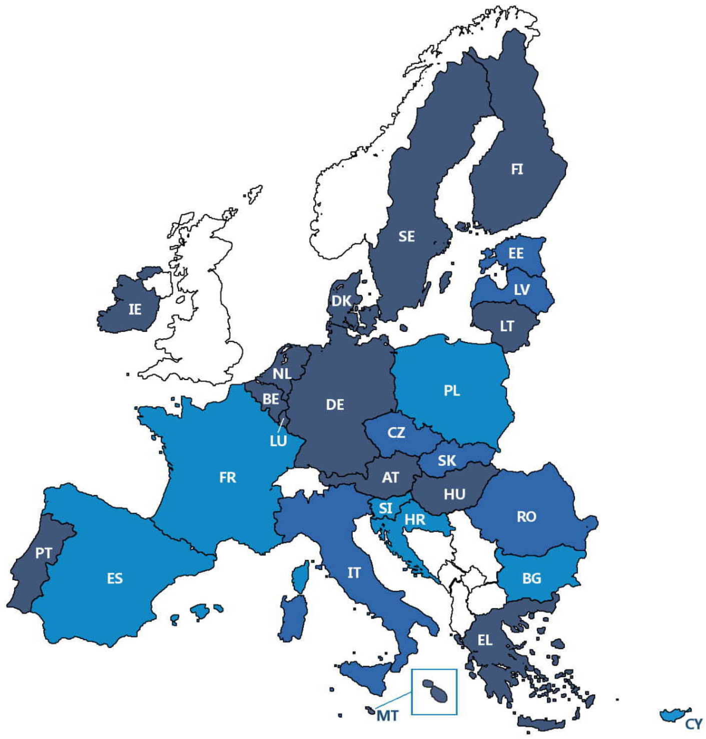


There is wide variation in the proportions that say things are going in the right direction in their country, from 71% in Ireland to 14% in Spain. The results show a broad geographical pattern: in general, countries in the south and east of Europe tend to have lower proportions of respondents saying things are going in the right direction.

SD15a.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
(OUR COUNTRY) (% - THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION)

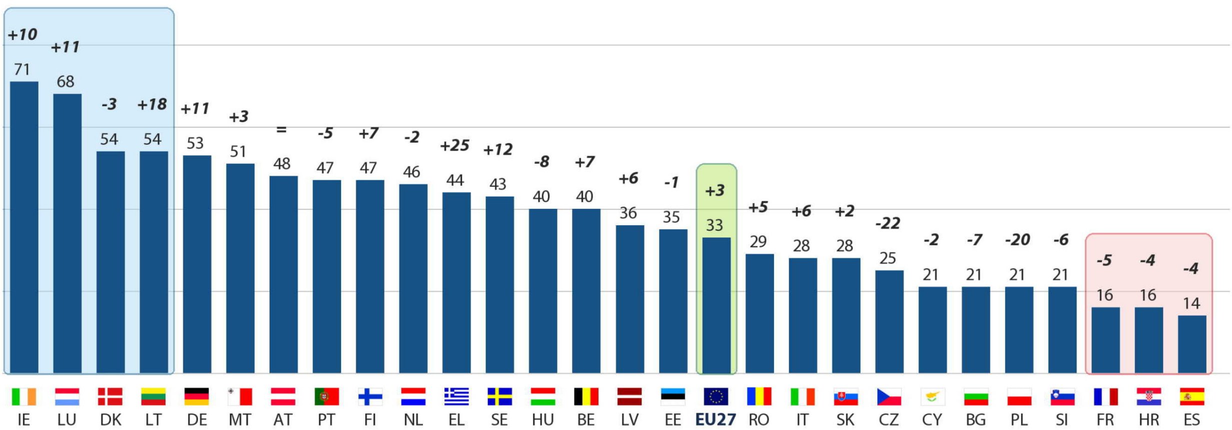
IE	71
LU	68
LT	54
DK	54
DE	53
MT	51
AT	48
PT	47
FI	47
NL	46
EL	44
SE	43
HU	40
BE	40
LV	36
EE	35
EU27	33
RO	29
SK	28
IT	28
CZ	25
SI	21
BG	21
PL	21
CY	21
HR	16
FR	16
ES	14

Map Legend
37 - 100
22 - 36
0 - 21



There have been some large changes since October 2019 in terms of whether countries are seen as going in the right direction. A positive shift of 3 or more percentage points is seen in 12 Member States, with the largest increases in Greece (44%, +25 pp), Lithuania (54%, +18 pp), Sweden (43%, +12 pp), Luxembourg (68%, +11 pp), Germany (53%, +11 pp) and Ireland (71%, +10 pp). Among the 13 countries that show a decrease, the largest are Czechia (25%, -22 pp) and Poland (21%, -20 pp).

SD15a.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
(OUR COUNTRY) **(% - THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION)**

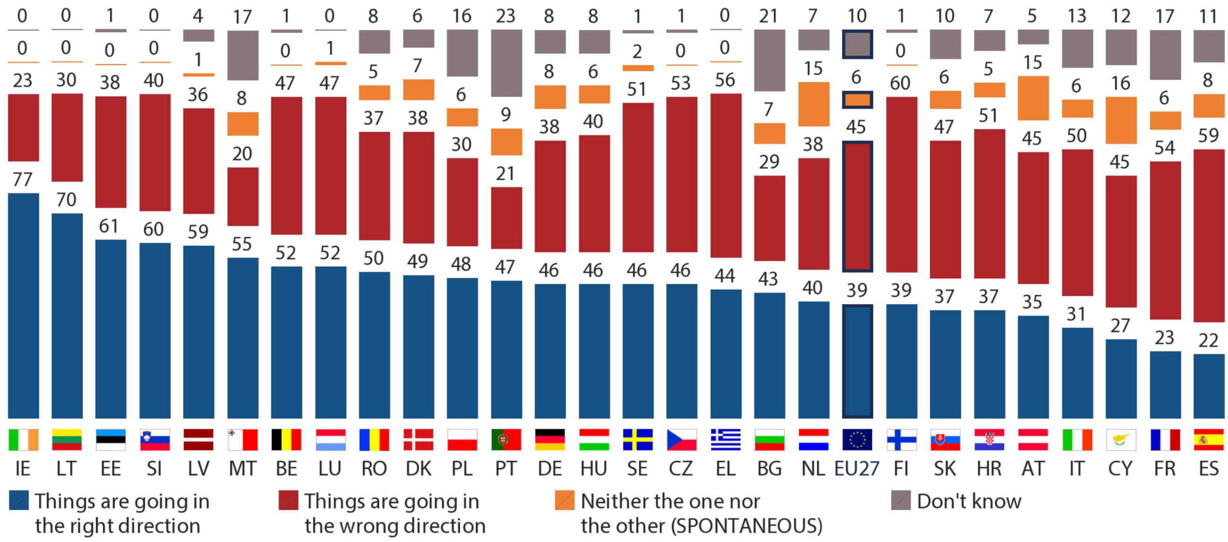


Nov.-Dec. 2020 - Oct. 2019

Things are going in the right/wrong direction in the EU: national analysis

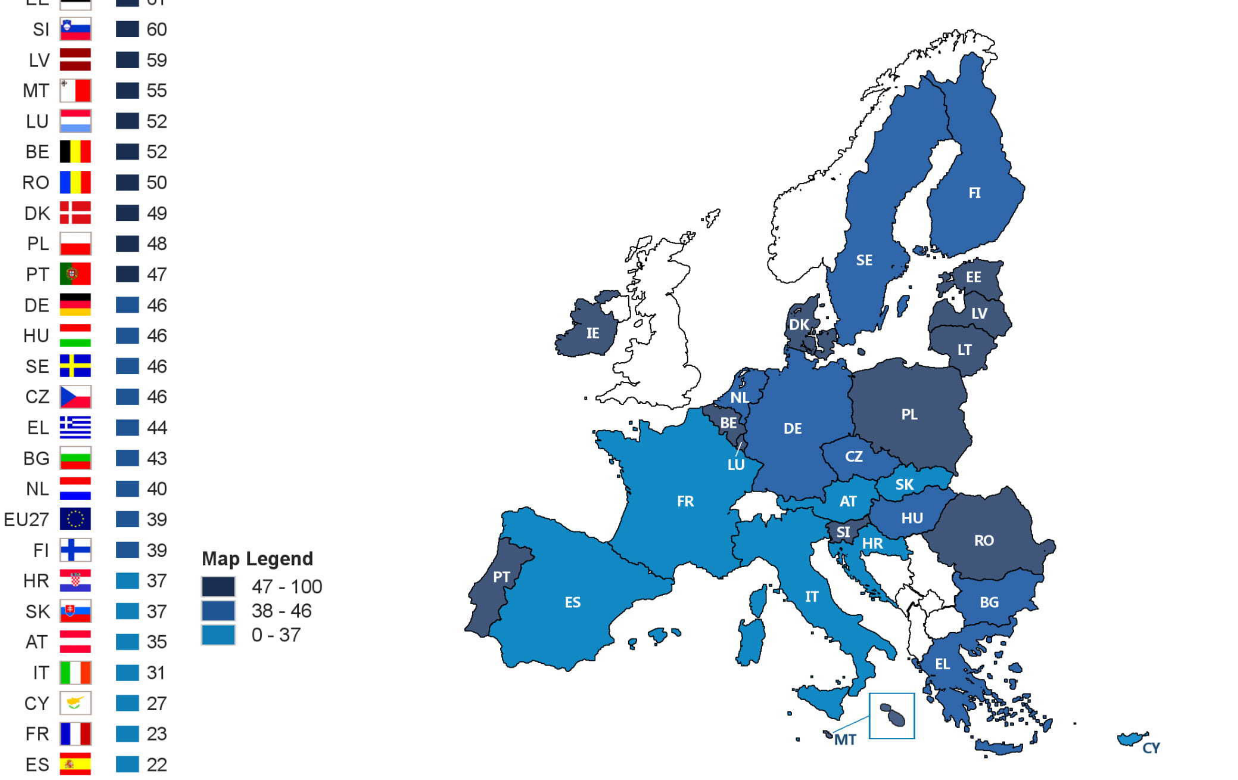
There is considerable variation in the proportion that think things are going in the right direction in the EU, ranging from 77% in Ireland and 70% in Lithuania, to 22% in Spain and 23% in France. In total, there are 16 Member States where the majority think that things are on the right track in the EU, while 11 countries have a majority that think things are going in the wrong direction.

SD15a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
The European Union (%)



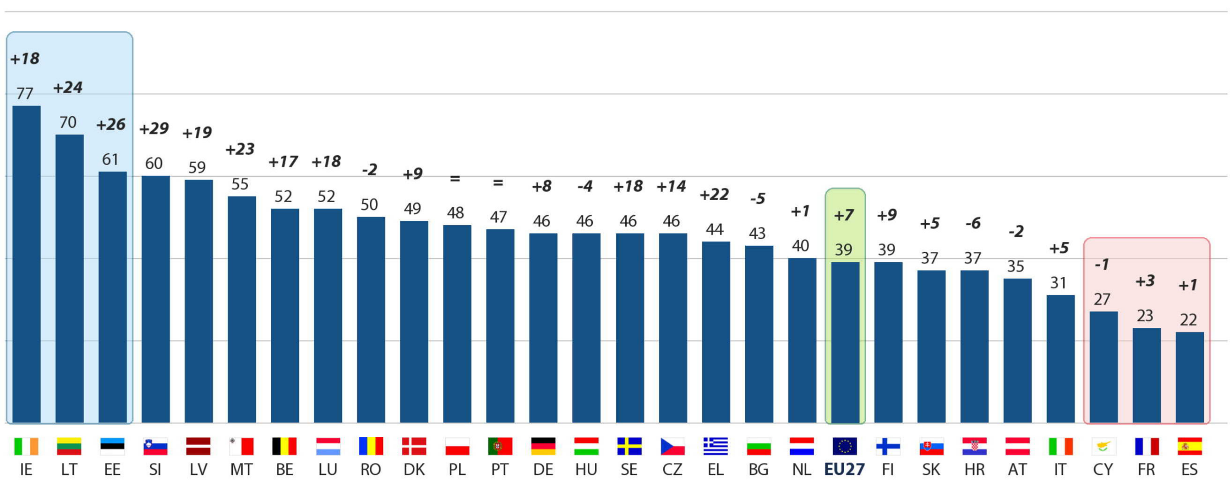
In the EU as a whole, around four in ten citizens (39%) say that things are going in the right direction in the EU, and in eight countries this proportion rises to more than half. Overall, there is a tendency for more positive ratings to be seen in Member States in eastern parts of Europe, particularly the Baltic countries.

SD15a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
The European Union (% - THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION)



The overall shift since October 2019 is positive, with a 7-point increase in the proportion of EU citizens who think things are going in the right direction in the EU. There are 17 Member States that show a clear upward trend (of 3 or more percentage points), while just three countries show an equivalent decrease. The largest positive shifts are seen in Slovenia (60%, +29 pp), Estonia (61%, +26 pp), Lithuania (70%, +24 pp), Malta (55%, +23 pp) and Greece (44%, +22 pp).

SD15a.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
The European Union **(% - THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION)**



Nov.-Dec. 2020 - Oct. 2019

There are consistent socio-demographic differences, when looking at perceptions of whether things are going in the right direction at the national level and at the EU level. More highly educated respondents and those who do not have difficulties paying bills are more likely to say that things are going in the right direction both in their country and in the EU. Looking at occupational group, managers are the most likely to say things are going in the right direction at both national and EU level, while unemployed respondents and house persons are the least likely to say so.

Respondents in the middle age bands are most critical of the direction in which their country and the EU level are going, and this applies specifically to the 40-54 age group when considering the situation in the EU.

Attitudes are linked with expectations about the national economy: respondents who think the economic situation will be better in a year's time are more likely to think things are going in the right direction, both nationally and in the EU. Respondents who feel that their voice counts, or who are satisfied with democracy in their country and the EU, are also more much likely to think that things are going in the right direction.

The next section of the report moves on to look at issues of democracy and the citizen's voice in more detail.

SD15a At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?
Things are going in the right direction (% - EU)

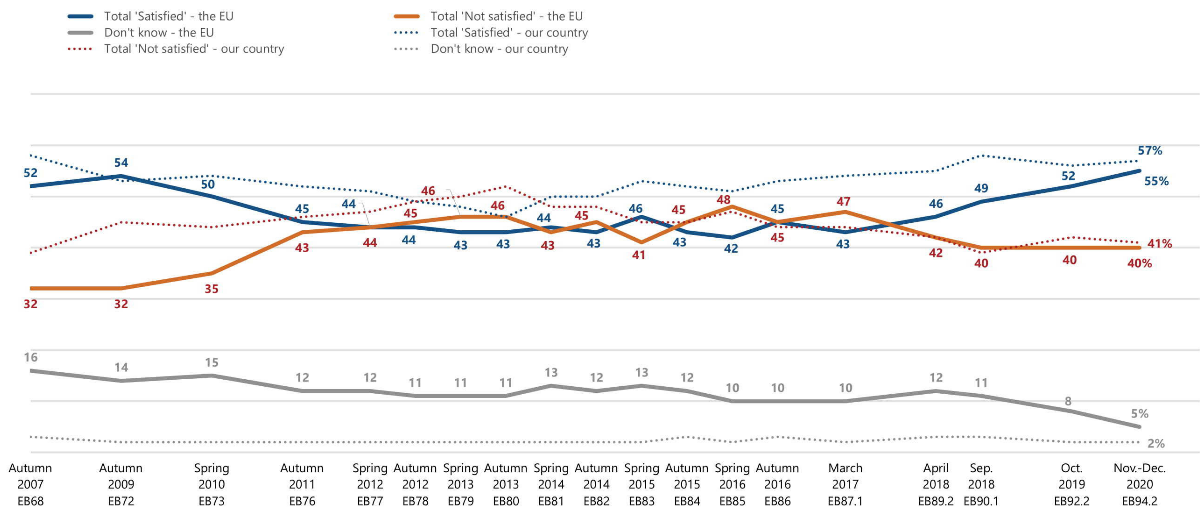
	(OUR COUNTRY)	The European Union
EU27	33	39
Age		
15-24	33	45
25-39	32	42
40-54	30	36
55+	34	36
Education (End of)		
15-	27	26
16-19	29	35
20+	38	45
Still studying	36	47
Socio-professional category		
Self-employed	33	41
Managers	42	48
Other white collars	36	42
Manual workers	26	35
House persons	24	26
Unemployed	21	27
Retired	35	36
Students	36	47
Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	19	23
From time to time	27	32
Almost never/ Never	36	42
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)		
Agree	46	49
Disagree	14	24
Satisfaction with democracy in one's country		
Total 'Satisfied'	50	51
Total 'Not satisfied'	9	22
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU		
Total 'Satisfied'	45	57
Total 'Not satisfied'	18	16
The situation of the (nationality) economy		
Better	56	57
Worse	22	30
The same	37	42

Satisfaction with democracy in (OUR COUNTRY) / the EU

This section looks at public perceptions of how democracy is working within Member States and in the EU as a whole. Overall, more than half (55%) of respondents say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU (+3 pp since autumn 2019), while 40% (=) are not satisfied. This continues a positive trend since 2017, with positive ratings now far outweighing negative ones.

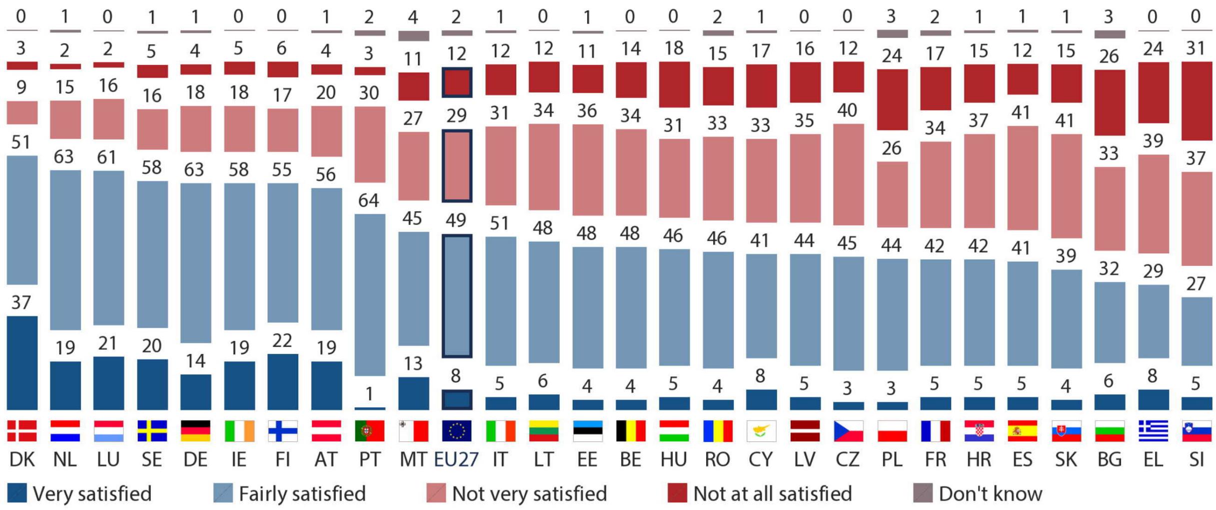
While attitudes towards democracy in the EU have become increasingly positive, there has been little change in relation to democracy at the national level. More than half of citizens (57%, +1 pp) are satisfied with the way democracy works in their own country, while around four in ten (41%, -1 pp) are not satisfied. As a result of the recent changes, attitudes towards democracy at the EU level are now almost identical to how democracy is seen at the national level.

SD18 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? And how about the way democracy works in the EU?
(% - EU)



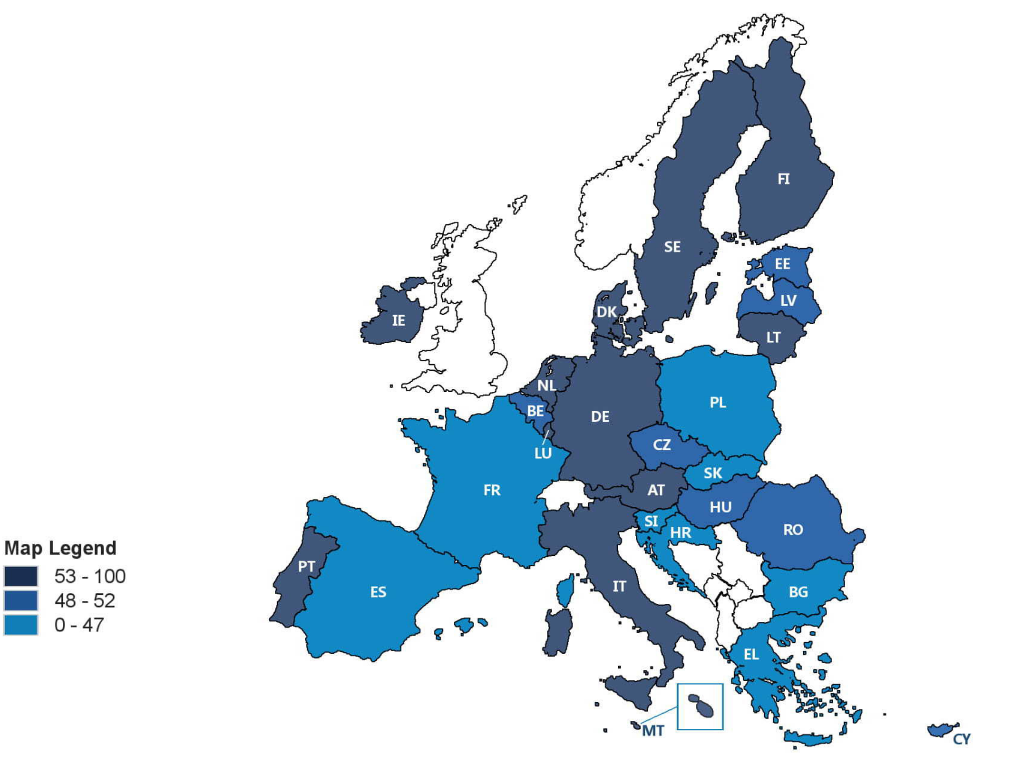
The country analysis shows the variation in assessments of how the domestic political system is functioning. In 16 Member States, the majority of respondents are satisfied with how democracy is working, led by Denmark (88%), Luxembourg and the Netherlands (both 82%). In the other 11 Member States, the majority are not satisfied, and the highest levels of dissatisfaction are seen in Slovenia (68%), Greece (63%) and Bulgaria (59%).

SD18a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?
(%)



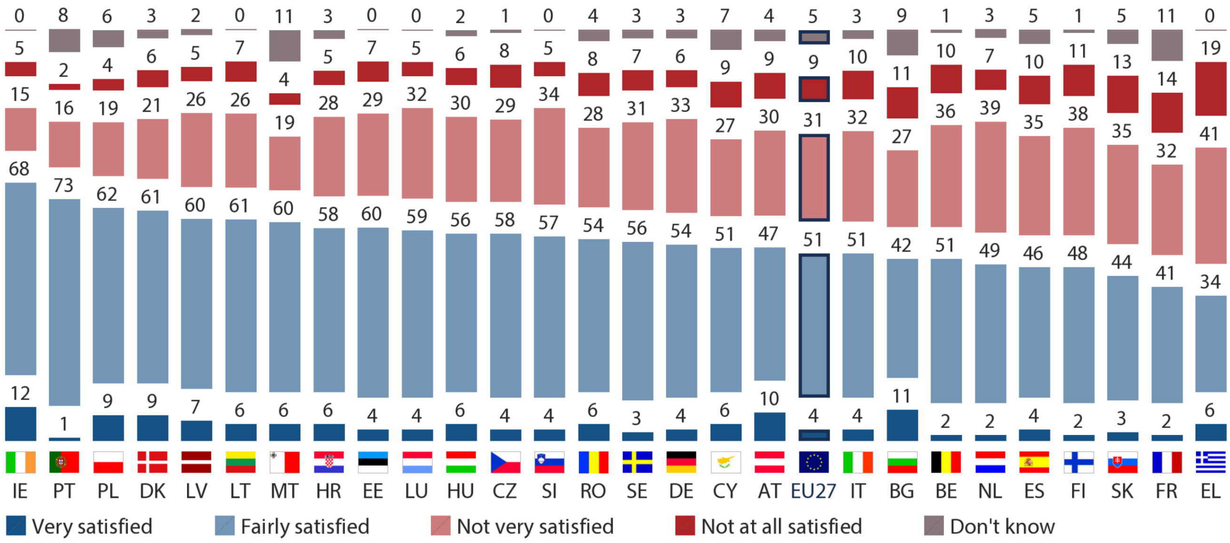
Perceptions of democracy at the national level vary considerably between Member States, with 88% satisfied in Demark but just 32% satisfied in Slovenia. Attitudes tend to be most positive in countries in the north of Europe, including the Nordic countries.

SD18a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?
(% - TOTAL 'SATISFIED')



In all but three Member States, the majority of respondents are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU. Satisfaction is highest in Ireland (80%), Portugal (74%), Poland (71%) and Denmark (70%). The three exceptions are Greece (where 60% are dissatisfied and 40% satisfied), Slovakia (48% and 47% respectively) and France (46% and 43%).

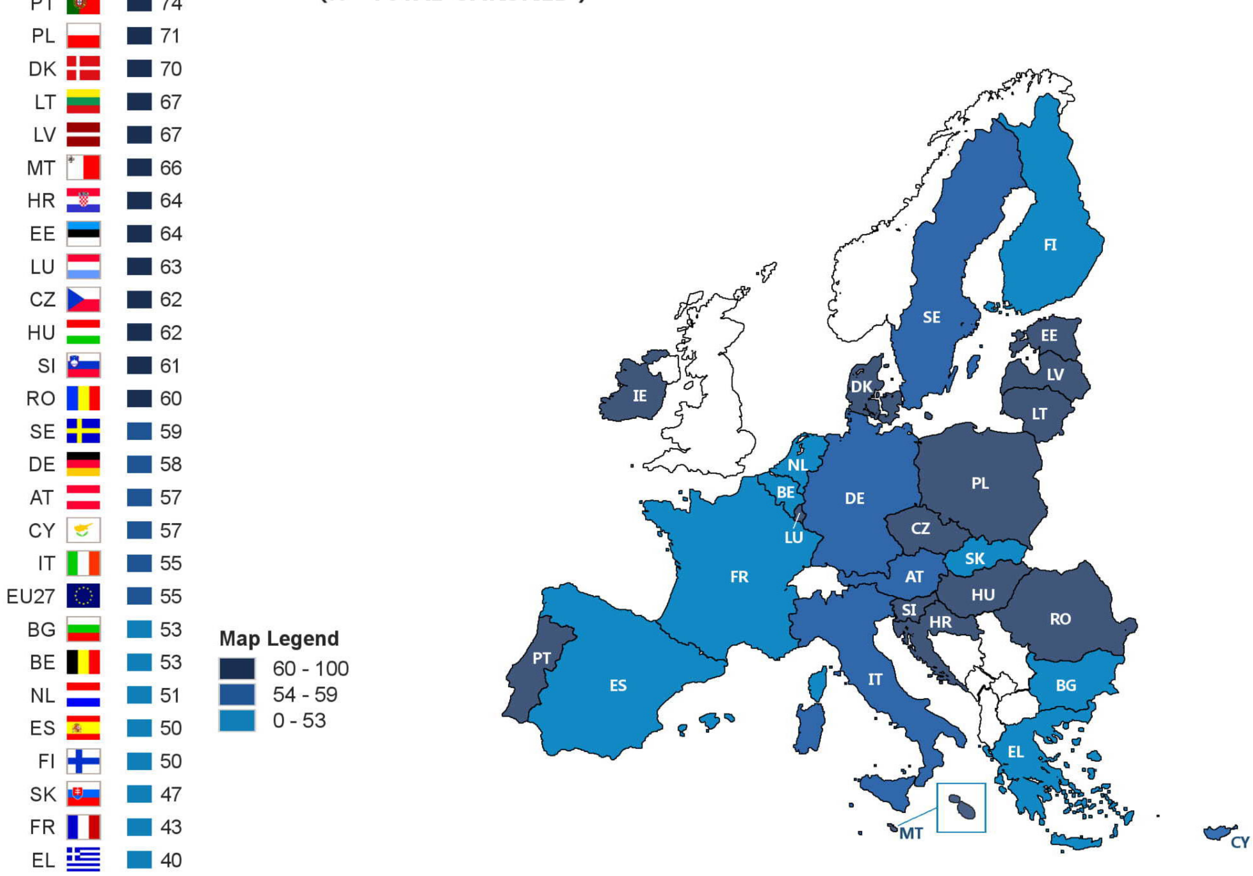
SD18b And how about the way democracy works in the EU?
(%)



Satisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU ranges from 80% in Ireland to 40% in Greece. There is no clear geographical pattern to the results, although high levels of satisfaction are seen in the Baltic countries.

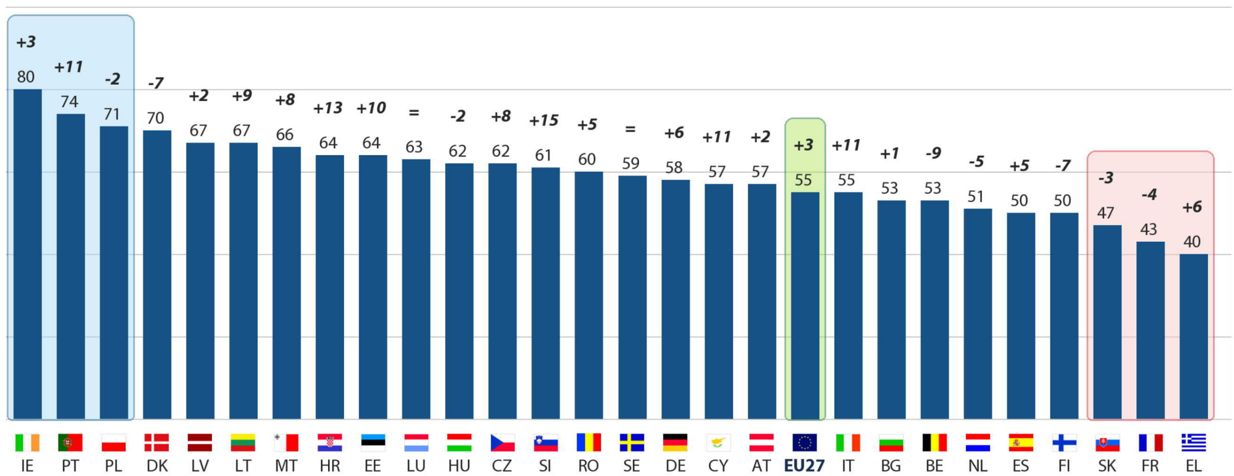
There are 14 Member States that show a positive trend since October 2019 (of 3 or more percentage points) in terms of how democracy in the EU is perceived. Two-digit increases can be found in Slovenia (61%, +15 pp), Croatia (64%, +13 pp), Portugal (74%, +11 pp), Cyprus (57%, +11 pp), Italy (55%, +11 pp) and Estonia (64%, +10 pp).

SD18b And how about the way democracy works in the EU?
(% - TOTAL 'SATISFIED')



Six Member States show a decline in satisfied ratings of at least 3 points, the largest being Belgium (53%, -9 pp) and Denmark (70%, -7 pp).

SD18b And how about the way democracy works in the EU?
(% - TOTAL 'SATISFIED')



Nov.-Dec. 2020 - Oct. 2019

On a socio-demographic level, young people aged 15-24 are more likely than older people to be satisfied with the way democracy is working, both in their country and in the EU. The difference is particularly pronounced in relation to the EU (66% of 15-24 year olds compared with 52% of those aged 55 or over).

There are also differences by financial position and level of education. Respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills are more likely to approve of the way democracy is working, both in their country (63%) and in the EU (59%). Respondents who finished education at the age of 20 or above are also more likely to be satisfied, both at the national and EU level (63% and 59% respectively). By occupational group, satisfaction is highest among managers and students and lowest among unemployed respondents.

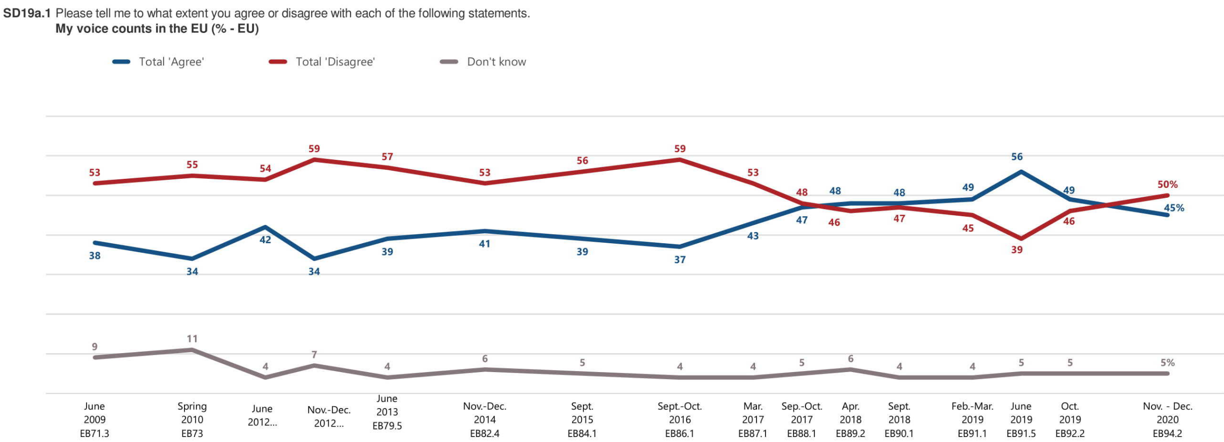
SD18 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in.. ?
Total 'Satisfied' (% - EU)

	(OUR COUNTRY)	The EU
EU27	57	55
Age		
15-24	62	66
25-39	57	59
40-54	56	55
55+	58	52
Education (End of)		
15-	51	44
16-19	54	54
20+	63	59
Still studying	66	68
Socio-professional category		
Self-employed	58	56
Managers	66	63
Other white collars	62	62
Manual workers	52	54
House persons	52	48
Unemployed	38	40
Retired	58	51
Students	66	68
Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	32	38
From time to time	51	51
Almost never/ Never	63	59

My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) / the EU

Previous research has stressed the importance citizens give to the extent to which their voice is heard in the EU. In the most recent Standard Eurobarometer, almost nine in ten Europeans said that EU citizens' voice should be more taken into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe[17].

In this survey, just under half of citizens agree that their voice counts in the EU (45%, -4 pp since autumn 2019), while a slightly higher proportion disagrees (50%, +4 pp). There has been a negative shift since June 2019, and as a result citizens are now more likely to disagree than agree that their voice counts in the EU, a return to the pattern seen in 2017 and before.

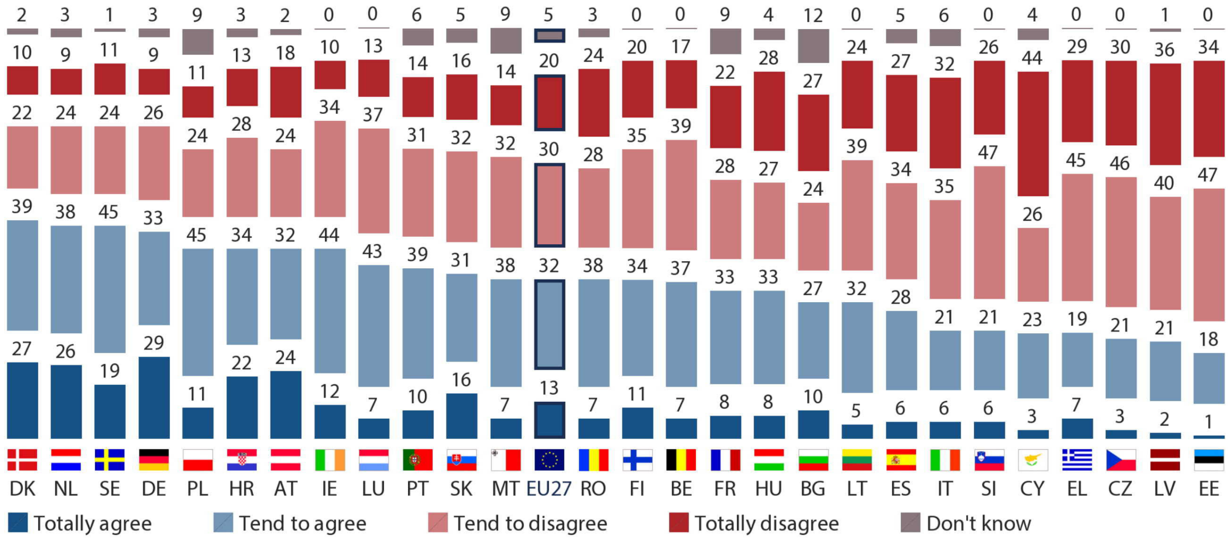


While this trend may be partly seen as a sign of disenchantment, the patterns for this indicator can be better understood when examined over time alongside the timing of legislative life cycles. Findings demonstrate that the perception that 'my voice counts' is strongly linked to the momentum of elections, which represent by definition the opportunity to express voices and expectations directly through the vote. The analysis of the most important positive scores on the trend line shows that European elections and their preceding campaigns have certainly helped to shape these curves. For example, a progressive strengthening of the feeling that 'my voice counts' is evident during the months preceding the European ballot both for the 2004 and 2009 elections, receding again after the votes.

In nine Member States, the majority of respondents agree that their voice counts in the EU, led by Denmark (66%), Sweden (64%), the Netherlands (64%) and Germany (62%). However, the majority disagree that their voice counts in 17 countries, with levels of disagreement highest in Estonia (81%), Czechia (76%), Latvia (76%), Greece (74%) and Slovenia (73%). In Luxembourg, there is an even split between agreement and disagreement.

17 Standard Eurobarometer 93. https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/2262

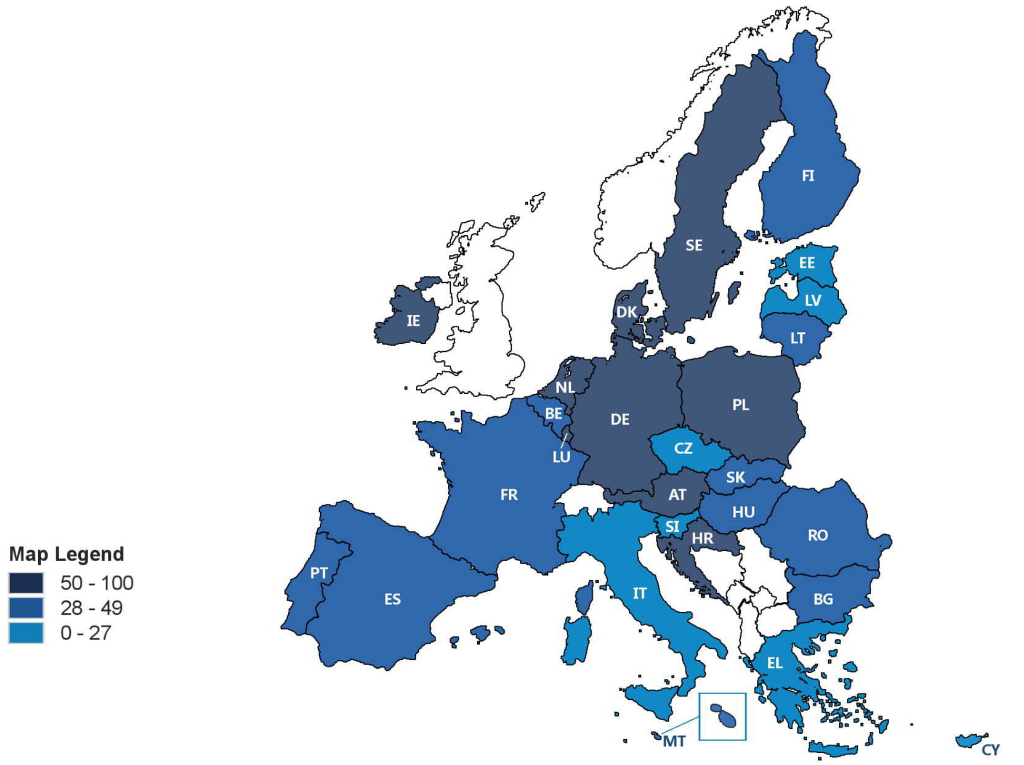
SD19a.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
My voice counts in the EU (%)



Overall, there is a geographical pattern, with a divide between many countries in the north and west of Europe (who generally agree that their voice counts), compared with those in the south and east (who are more likely to disagree).

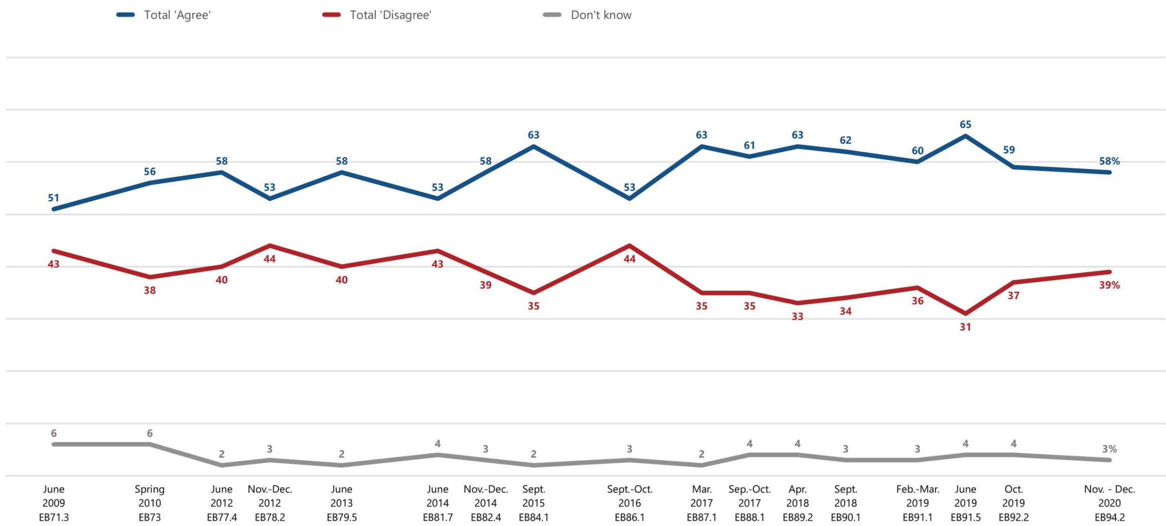
DK	66
SE	64
NL	64
DE	62
AT	56
IE	56
HR	56
PL	56
LU	50
PT	49
SK	47
MT	45
EU27	45
RO	45
FI	45
BE	44
HU	41
FR	41
BG	37
LT	37
ES	34
SI	27
IT	27
EL	26
CY	26
CZ	24
LV	23
EE	19

SD19a.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
My voice counts in the EU (% - TOTAL 'AGREE')



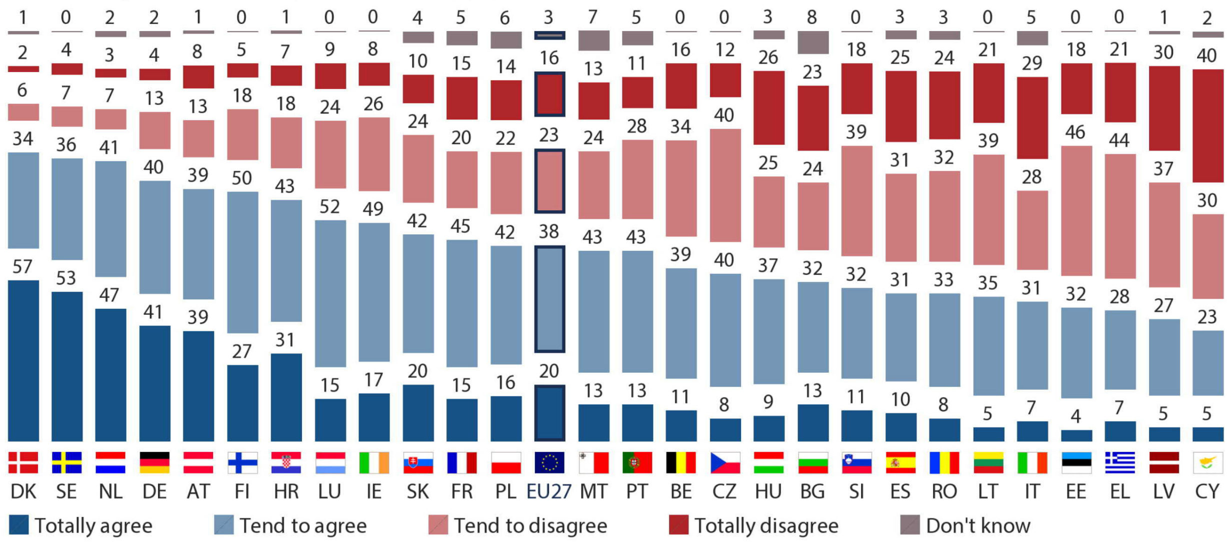
The majority of citizens agree that their voice counts in their country (58%, -1 pp since October 2019), while 39% disagree (+2 pp). Findings have broadly been stable on this measure in recent years, with a consistent proportion of citizens (around six in ten) agreeing that their voice counts in their country.

SD19a.2 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)



In 14 Member States, the majority of respondents agree that their voice counts in their country, while the majority disagree in 12 countries. There is an even split in Belgium. These overall findings disguise some large variations between Member States. In four countries, eight in ten respondents or more agree that their voice counts: Denmark (91%), Sweden (89%), the Netherlands (88%) and Germany (81%). However, this applies to less than four in ten respondents in Cyprus (28%), Latvia (32%), Greece (35%), Estonia (36%) and Italy (38%).

SD19a.2 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



The socio-demographic analysis shows similar patterns at the EU and national level. In both cases, more highly educated respondents are more likely to say that their voice counts: 51% of those who finished education aged 20 or above agree that their voice counts in the EU, and 66% in their country. Agreement is also higher among those who never or rarely have difficulties paying bills (50% in relation to the EU, 65% in relation to their country). Looking at the different occupational groups, agreement is highest among managers (56% for the EU, 69% for the country) and lowest among unemployed respondents (30% and 44% respectively). There is a close correlation between thinking that one's voice counts in the EU and saying the same about one's country. Among those who agree that their voice counts in the EU, 92% also agree that their voice counts in their country. This suggests that political engagement tends to be felt on a general level, rather than differently in relation to different tiers or levels of governance.

SD19a Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
Total 'Agree' (% - EU)

	My voice counts in the EU	My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)
EU27	45	58
Education (End of)		
15-	35	45
16-19	43	56
20+	51	66
Still studying	44	57
Socio-professional category		
Self-employed	47	59
Managers	56	69
Other white collars	48	62
Manual workers	43	53
House persons	37	49
Unemployed	30	44
Retired	46	61
Students	44	57
Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	29	36
From time to time	37	47
Almost never/ Never	50	65
My voice counts in the EU		
Agree	100	92
Disagree	0	30

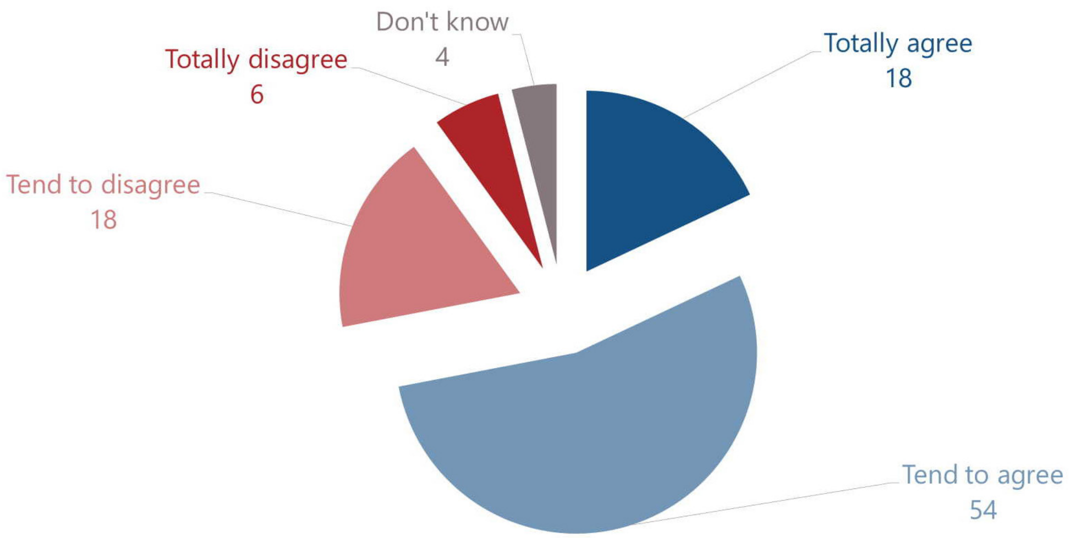
The pandemic recovery plan of the EU

In May 2020, the European Commission proposed a revamped long-term EU budget boosted by Next Generation EU, an emergency temporary recovery instrument, aimed to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought by the coronavirus pandemic, kick-start the recovery and prepare for a better future for the next generation. This was agreed by EU leaders on 21 July 2020. In total, this agreement covers a €1.8tn financial package, comprising a €750bn coronavirus recovery plan, as well as a €1.074tn budget for 2021-27.

Citizens were asked about the recovery plan, which was explained as follows: "*The EU Member States agreed on a €750 billion economic recovery plan, including both grants (€390bn) and loans (€360bn), to address the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and to invest in a green, digital, social and more resilient EU*".

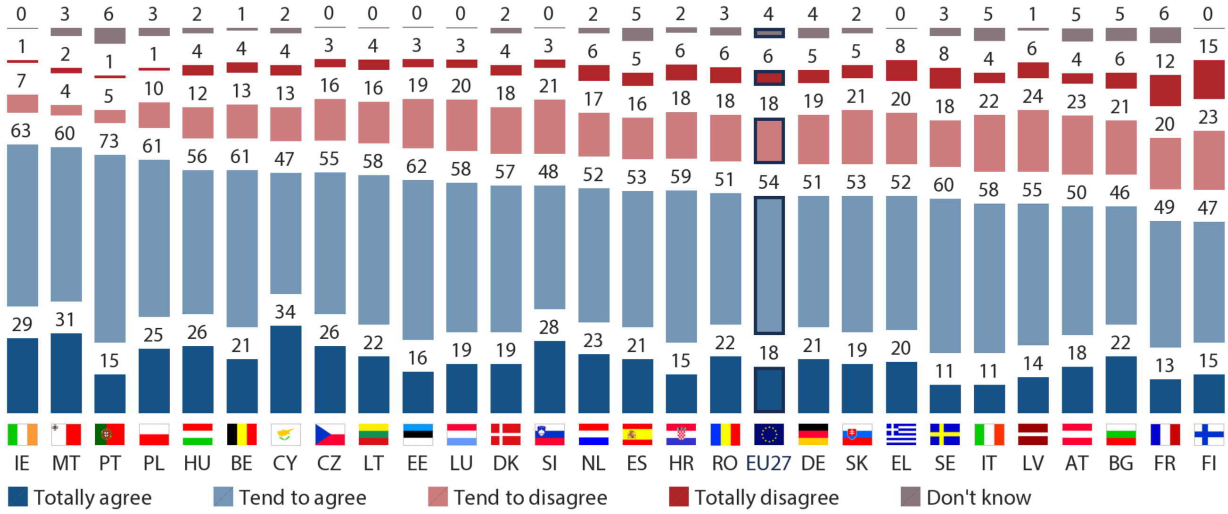
Almost three in four respondents (72%) agree that the recovery plan will allow their country's economy to recover more rapidly from the negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic, while one in four (24%) disagree. These positive expectations are encouraging, given the high level of concern that citizens have for their own finances and, in particular, their national economy.

QA12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the recovery plan of the EU will allow (OUR COUNTRY)'s economy to recover more rapidly from negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic?
(% - EU)



In every Member State, a clear majority of respondents agree that the EU recovery plan will allow their country's economy to recover more rapidly from the negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Agreement is particularly high in Ireland (92%), Malta (91%), Portugal (88%) and Poland (86%), while it is lowest in Finland and France (both 62%).

QA12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the recovery plan of the EU will allow (OUR COUNTRY)'s economy to recover more rapidly from negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic?
(%)



The socio-demographic analysis shows widespread agreement that the EU recovery plan will allow national economies to recover more rapidly from the negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Agreement is highest among younger people (77% of 15-24 year olds), those who left education later (77% of those who finished education at the age of 20 or above), managers (77%), students (79%) and those who rarely or never have difficulties paying bills (76%).

Attitudes are also closely linked with overall perceptions of the EU: respondents who have a positive image of the EU are much more likely to agree (89%) than those who hold a negative image (34%).

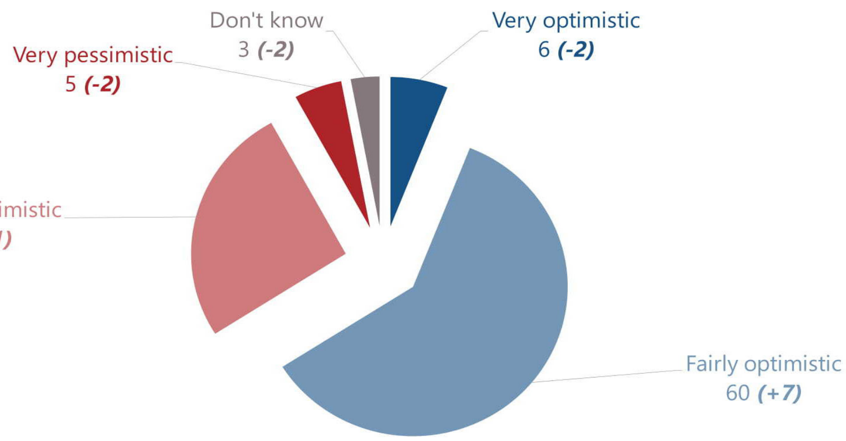
QA12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the recovery plan of the EU will allow (OUR COUNTRY)'s economy to recover more rapidly from negative effects of the coronavirus pandemic?
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	72	24	4
Age			
15-24	77	19	4
25-39	73	24	3
40-54	72	25	3
55+	72	23	5
Education (End of)			
15-	65	26	9
16-19	71	26	3
20+	77	21	2
Still studying	79	17	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	73	26	1
Managers	77	21	2
Other white collars	76	21	3
Manual workers	69	28	3
House persons	66	26	8
Unemployed	66	31	3
Retired	72	22	6
Students	79	17	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	60	36	4
From time to time	69	28	3
Almost never/ Never	76	20	4
Image of EU			
Positive	89	8	3
Neutral	65	30	5
Negative	34	63	3

Optimism for the future of the EU

With citizens expressing positive views about the EU recovery plan, it is encouraging to see growing optimism for the future of the EU overall. Two in three citizens (66%, +5 pp since June 2019) say they are optimistic about the future of the EU, while 31% (-3 pp) are pessimistic. This positive shift runs parallel with the increase in feelings that things are going in the right direction in the EU.

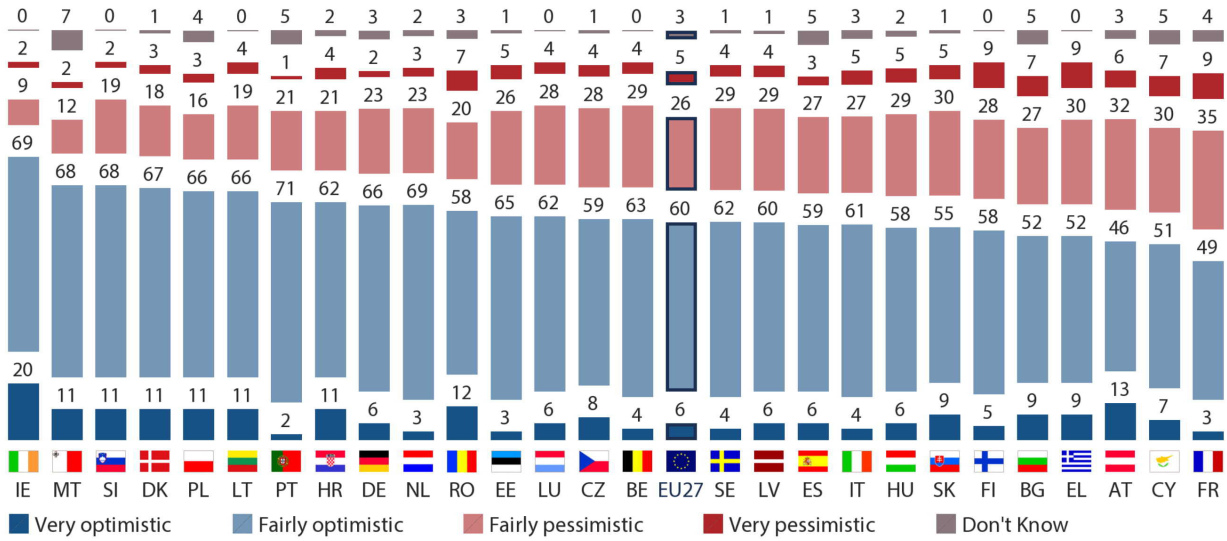
SD17 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
(% - EU)



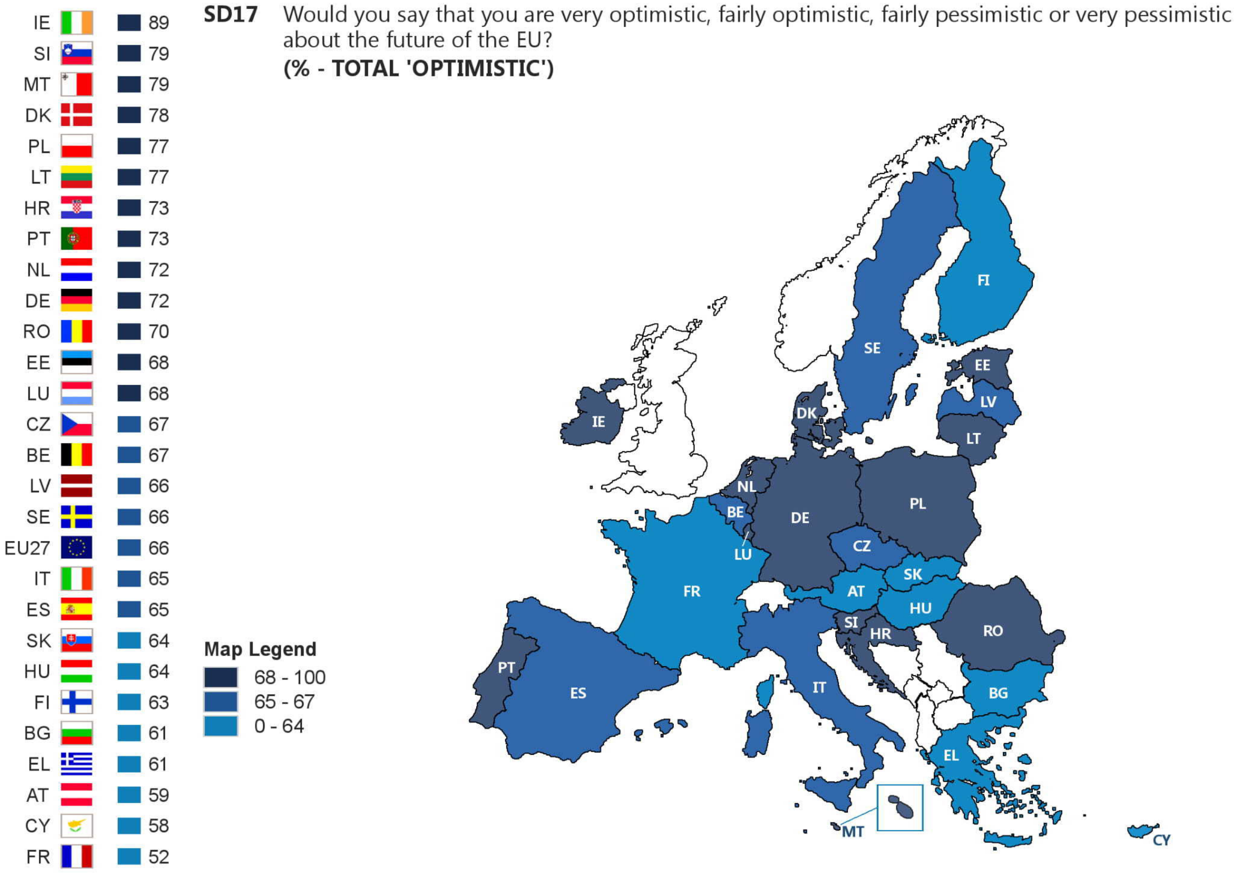
(Nov.-Dec. 2020, EB94.2 - June 2019, EB91.5)

In every Member State, more than half of respondents say they are optimistic about the future of the EU. The proportion is by far the highest in Ireland (89%), followed by Malta and Slovenia (both 79%), Denmark (78%), Lithuania and Poland (both 77%). Pessimism is strongest in France (44%), Cyprus (37%), Greece (39%) and Austria (38%). Optimism about the future of the EU ranges from 89% in Ireland to 52% in France.

SD17 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
(%)

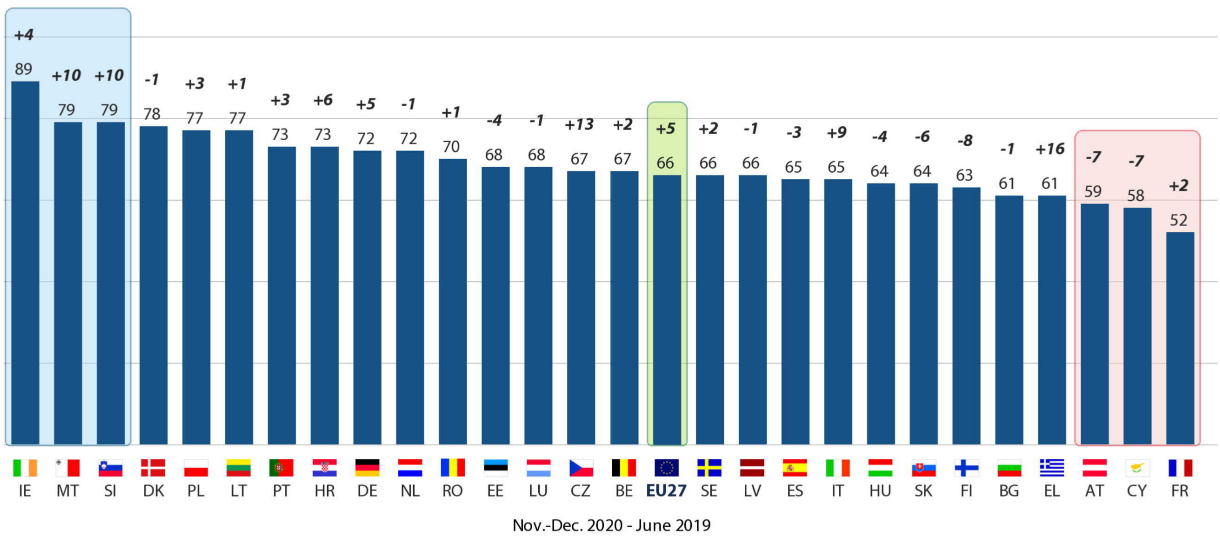


SD17 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
(% - TOTAL 'OPTIMISTIC')



There is no clear geographical pattern to the results. Optimism for the future of the EU has increased markedly since June 2019 in several Member States: Greece (61%, +16 pp), Czechia (67%, +13 pp), Malta (79%, +10 pp) and Slovenia (79%, +10 pp). In total, ten Member States have seen an increase of 3 percentage points or more, while there has been an equivalent decrease in seven countries, the largest being in Finland (63%, -8 pp), Austria (59%, -7 pp) and Cyprus (58%, -7 pp).

SD17 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
(% - TOTAL 'OPTIMISTIC')



In the socio-demographic analysis, young people are more likely than older people to say they are optimistic about the future of the EU (75% of 15-24 year olds compared with 63% of those aged 55 or over). An optimistic outlook is also more prevalent among managers (74%), students (78%), people who stayed in education until the age of 20 or over (72%) and respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (71%).

SD17 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
(% - EU)

	Total 'Optimistic'	Total 'Pessimistic'	Don't Know
EU27	66	31	3
Age			
15-24	75	23	2
25-39	69	29	2
40-54	66	32	2
55+	63	33	4
Education (End of)			
15-	53	40	7
16-19	64	33	3
20+	72	26	2
Still studying	78	21	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	70	28	2
Managers	74	25	1
Other white collars	72	26	2
Manual workers	63	34	3
House persons	57	37	6
Unemployed	53	42	5
Retired	62	34	4
Students	78	21	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	44	51	5
From time to time	59	38	3
Almost never/ Never	71	26	3

IMAGE, ROLE AND PRIORITIES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

This section focuses on the image of the European Parliament, how its future role is perceived, and how citizens views its priorities and core values. The results show that the image of the European Parliament is now more positive than it has been for over 10 years, with increasingly strong demands for its role to be enhanced.

In the previous chapter, we saw how views of the EU are linked to perceptions of finances and the economy, and this is clear again when considering the priorities for the European Parliament, with citizens wanting to see a high priority given to measures that reduce poverty and social inequality.

In terms of its values, citizens want to see the European Parliament continuing to protect human rights worldwide, while increasing importance is attached to gender equality and solidarity between EU Member States. The latter has been an increasing area of focus during the coronavirus pandemic, as citizens stress the need for Member States to work together and gain from their collective strength.

General image of the European Parliament

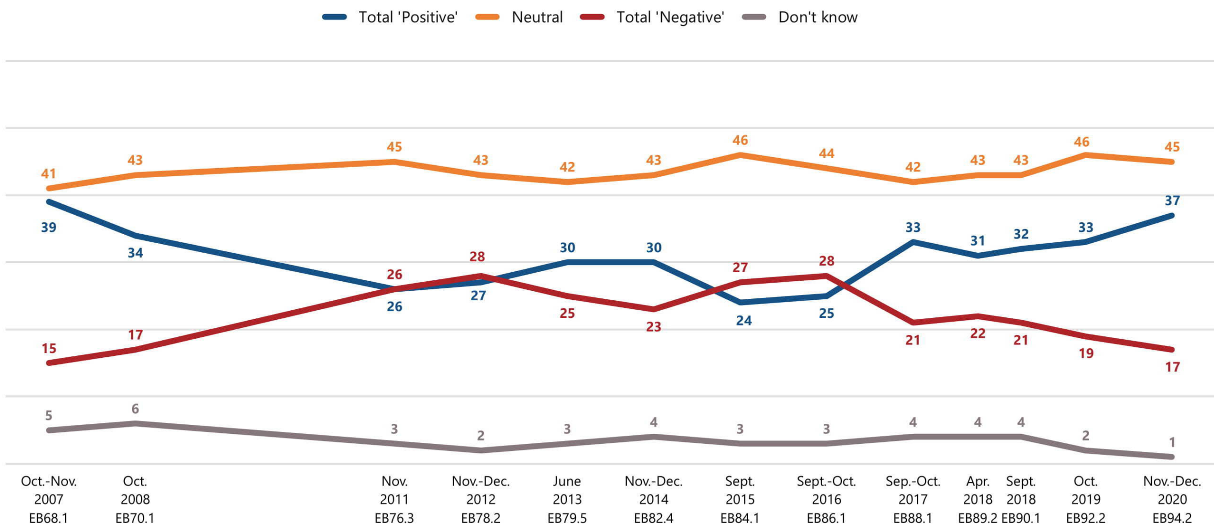
Parlemeter surveys measure citizens' views on the European Parliament both by looking at the image they have of the institution and by questioning citizens' views on Parliament's future role. Both of these measures show increasingly positive views.

The image of the European Parliament has grown more positive in the last year, and this is part of a longer-term positive trend. Although citizens are still most likely to express a neutral image of the European Parliament (45%, -1 pp since October 2019), the trend shows an increasing gap between Europeans with a positive image (37%, +4 pp) and those with a negative one (17%, -2 pp). The distance between the two curves is now at its highest level for over 10 years, and almost at the level seen in October-November 2007 before the economic downturn that started in 2008.

This long-term trend is reflected in results from the European Commission's Standard Eurobarometer[18]. This survey shows that citizens' trust in the European Parliament has been on a steadily growing trend since 2016, although there has been a slight dip in the latest measure (-3 pp between autumn 2019 and summer 2020). Despite this slight decrease, the European Parliament remains the European institution with the highest level of confidence expressed by Europeans: 48% of citizens tend to trust this institution, while 45% trust the European Commission and 42% trust the European Central Bank. Overall, 43% of respondents declare their trust in the European Union.

18 Standard Eurobarometer 93. https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/2262

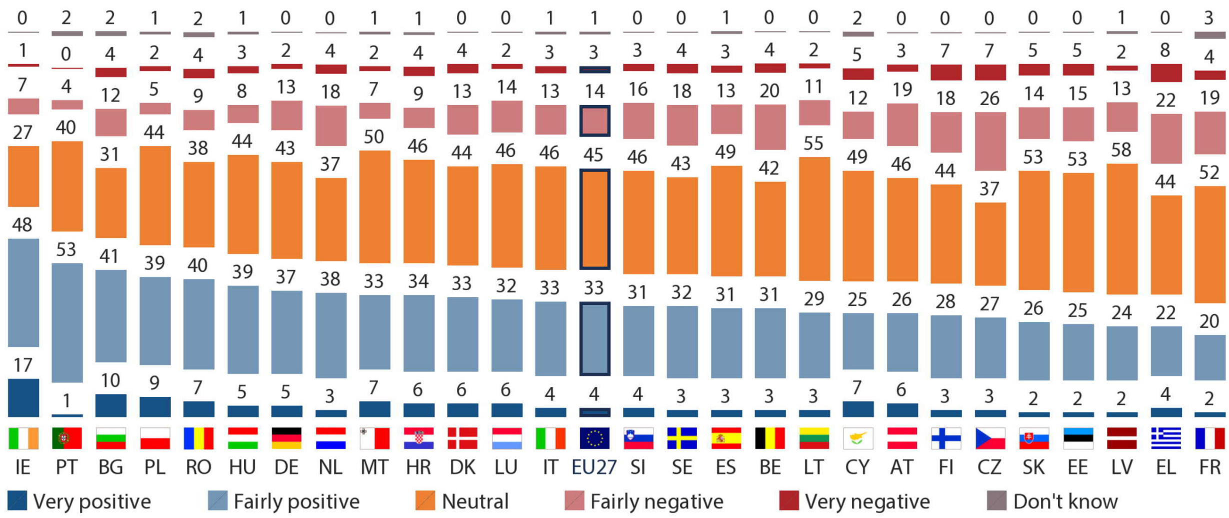
QA3 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?
(% - EU)



Going back to the Parlemeter 2020, in all but three Member States positive ratings for the European Parliament outweigh negative ones, with Czechia, Greece and France the exceptions.

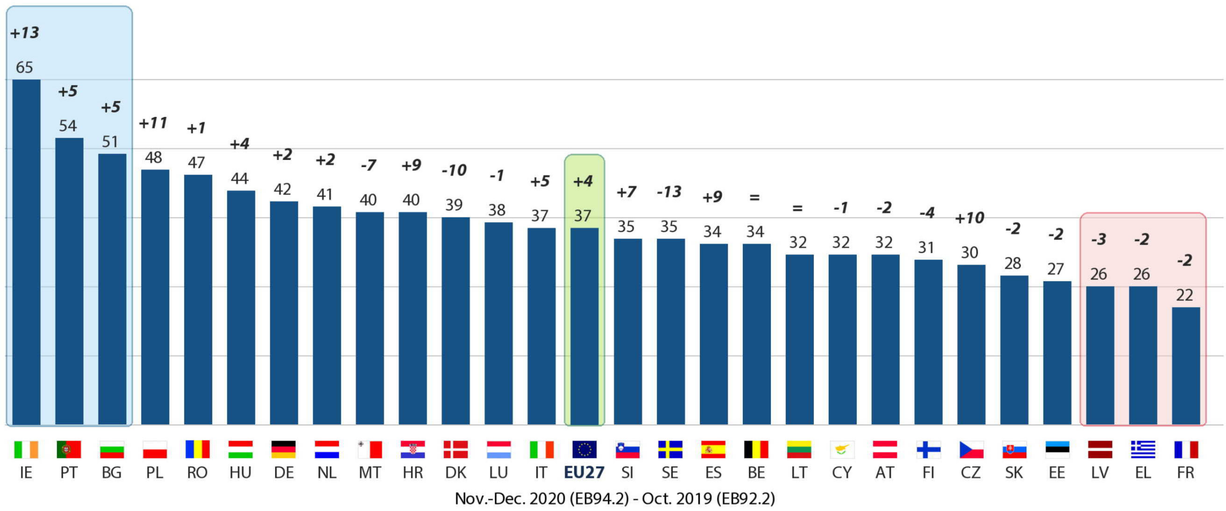
As in last year's study, Ireland shows the highest results for a positive image of the European Parliament (65%), followed by Portugal (54%), Bulgaria (51%), Poland (48%) and Romania (47%). France has the lowest 'positive' score (22%), followed by Greece and Latvia (both 26%).

QA3 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?
(%)



An upward trend for the positive image of the European Parliament runs across a number of Member States. This is most notable in Ireland (+13 pp compared with October 2019), Poland (+11 pp), Czechia (+10 pp) and in seven additional countries registering an increase of at least 3 percentage points. At the other end, a matching decrease of at least 3 percentage points is observed in five countries, most notably Sweden (-13 pp) and Denmark (-10 pp). In five countries, neutral attitudes towards the European Parliament are registered by more than half of respondents. The Baltic States (Latvia 58%, Lithuania 55%, and Estonia 53%) stand out, along with Slovakia (53%) and France (52%). Respondents in Malta are more likely to express a neutral view than a year ago (+10 pp), but there have also been two-digit decreases in three countries: Czechia (-17 pp), Ireland (-12 pp) and Croatia (-10 pp).

QA3 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?
(% - TOTAL 'POSITIVE')



Socio-demographic groups show some variation in perceptions regarding the European Parliament. Younger people tend to have a more favourable image, and this can be seen most clearly in the proportions that say their image is negative: just 11% among 15-24 year olds, but almost twice as high (20%) among those aged 55 or over. Citizens that were educated to a higher level and those in managerial, white collar occupations or students also hold a more positive image of the institution.

Citizens are most likely to have a negative image of the European Parliament if they struggle with their bills most of the time (27%) or if they expect their living conditions to be worse in a year's time (28%).

QA3 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?
(% - EU)

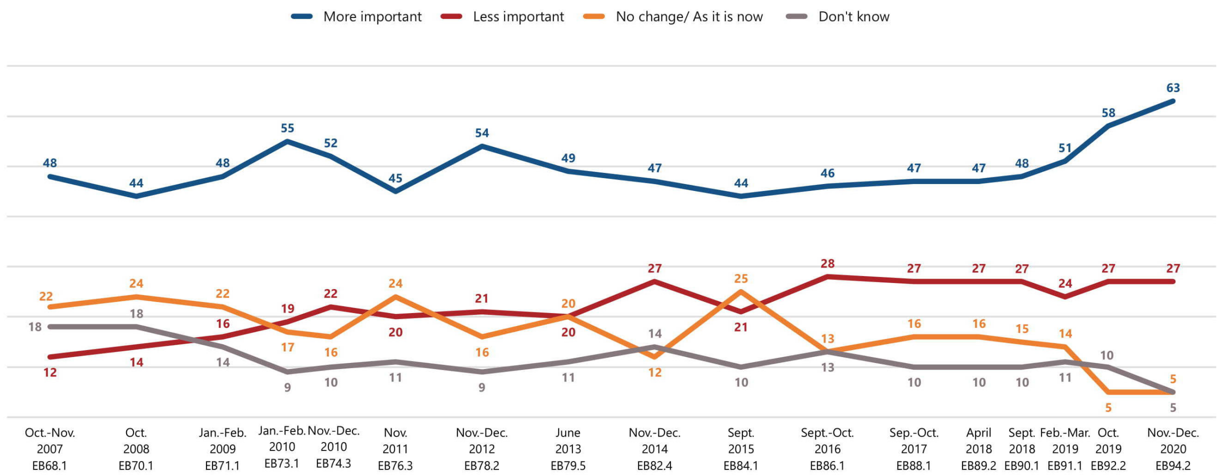
	Total 'Positive'	Neutral	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	37	45	17	1
Age				
15-24	39	49	11	1
25-39	37	48	14	1
40-54	37	44	18	1
55+	36	43	20	1
Education (End of)				
15-	28	50	20	2
16-19	34	48	17	1
20+	44	40	16	0
Still studying	43	45	11	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	43	40	17	0
Managers	46	38	16	0
Other white collars	40	45	14	1
Manual workers	32	50	17	1
House persons	30	50	19	1
Unemployed	27	50	22	1
Retired	35	44	20	1
Students	43	45	11	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	25	46	27	2
From time to time	33	48	18	1
Almost never/ Never	40	44	15	1
Your living conditions				
Better	47	40	12	1
Worse	28	43	28	1
The same	38	47	14	1

Role of the European Parliament in the future

The increasingly positive image that citizens have of the European Parliament is reflected in the call for greater prominence, as citizens want to see the only EU institution they can directly vote for invested with a greater role. This is the position of most Europeans (63%, +5 pp), and this continues an upward trend over the last two years. The proportion that want the European Parliament to play a more important role now stands at a record level, comfortably higher than at any point since 2007.

This increase comes alongside a fall in the proportion that are neutral or have no opinion, while those wanting a less important role for the European parliament have remained constant at around a quarter (27%, =). These patterns suggest that citizens are becoming more interested and engaged in the role of the European Parliament.

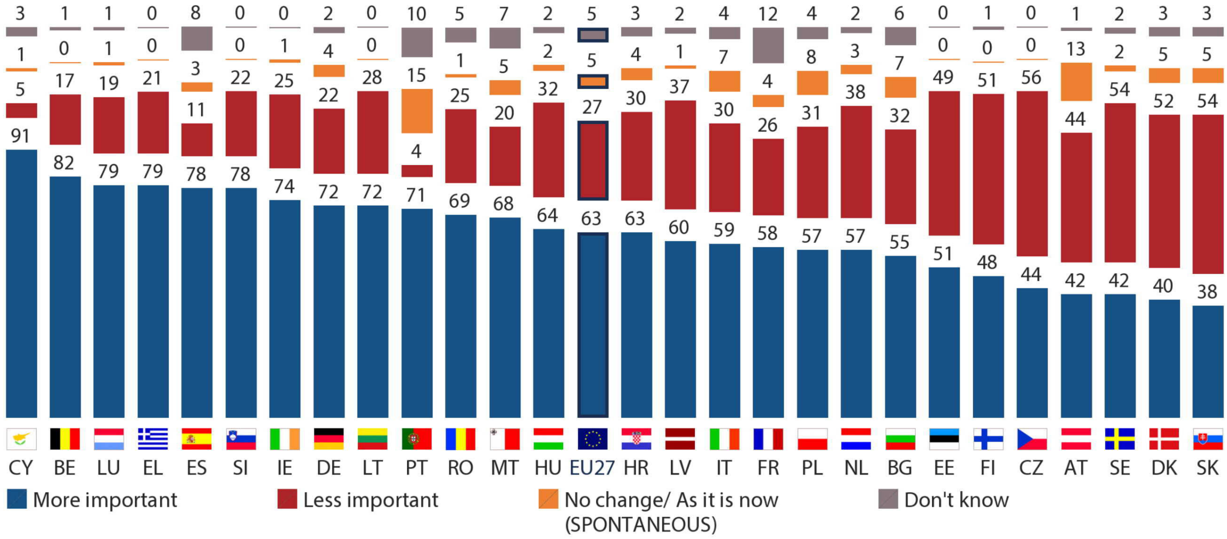
QA4 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role?
(% - EU)



The desire for a more important role for the European Parliament is seen in 21 Member States, where a relative majority of citizens wants a more influential institution, ranging from 91% in Cyprus to 51% in Estonia. In the other six countries, a majority of respondents would like the European Parliament to play a less important role in the future: Czechia (56% less important), Sweden and Slovakia (both 54%), Denmark (52%), Finland (51%) and Austria (44%).

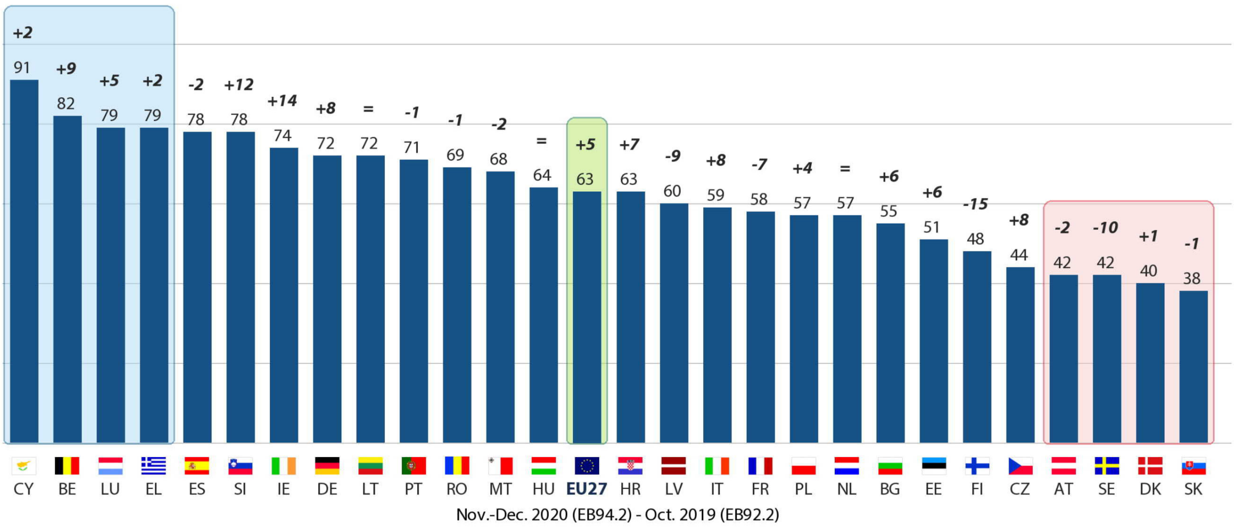
It is useful to compare responses to this question on the role of the European Parliament with those on its general image among citizens. The broad message is that there is no clear link between the two sets of results, suggesting that citizens see these as separate issues – their overall image of the European Parliament is not necessarily linked to their perceptions of whether it should have a more prominent role. For example, the image of the European Parliament is among the most negative in Greece, but respondents want it to play a more important role. By contrast, the overall image is positive in Bulgaria, but it is below average in terms of wanting to see a more prominent role.

QA4 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role?
(%)



Compared with the 2019 Parlemeter, support for a more important role for the European Parliament has grown by at least three percentage points in 11 countries, with a steep increase seen in Ireland (+14 pp) and Slovenia (+12 pp). The most significant increases among those backing a less important role can be found in Finland (51%, +21 pp), Latvia (37%, +15 pp), Denmark (52%, +14 pp) and Lithuania (28%, +14 pp).

QA4 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role?
(% - MORE IMPORTANT)



Socio-economic factors have a significant impact on all indicators related to the general perception of the EU and, as is the case here, on the role of the European Parliament. More educated respondents express a stronger desire for a more important role for the European Parliament (69% of those who left education at the age of 20 or over), as do managers and students (both 70%). There is a slight difference by age, with older respondents (aged 55 or over) less likely to want a more prominent role for the European Parliament (60% vs. 66% among those aged 15-24).

QA4 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role?
(% - EU)

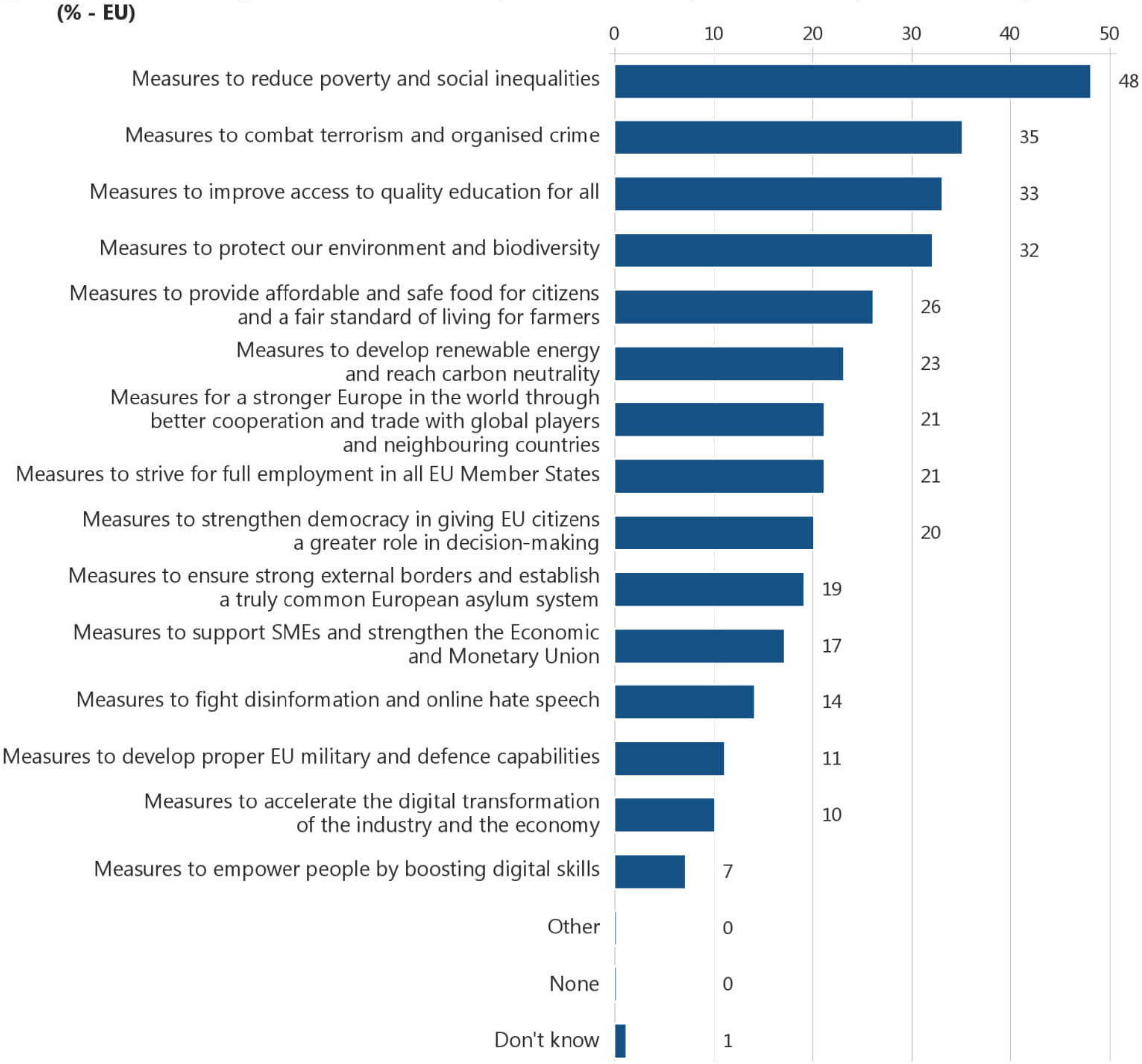
	More important	Less important	No change/ As it is now (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	63	27	5	5
Age				
15-24	66	24	4	6
25-39	67	25	4	4
40-54	64	27	5	4
55+	60	29	5	6
Education (End of)				
15-	56	27	6	11
16-19	60	31	4	5
20+	69	24	4	3
Still studying	70	21	4	5
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	66	28	3	3
Managers	70	24	4	2
Other white collars	65	27	5	3
Manual workers	62	28	4	6
House persons	58	26	5	11
Unemployed	60	29	4	7
Retired	59	30	5	6
Students	70	21	4	5

Main priorities for the European Parliament

Measures to reduce poverty and social inequality top the list of policy priorities that citizens want the European Parliament to focus on, chosen by almost half of citizens (48%), and clearly ahead of the next highest priorities, each chosen by around a third of respondents: measures to combat terrorism and organised crime (35%), measures to improve access to education for all (33%) and measures to protect the environment and biodiversity (32%).

The list of policy topics was modified this year to include new challenges and topics of public debate. A direct comparison with similar policy priority questions from the past years is therefore not possible, although some broad patterns can be identified. Most notably, tackling poverty and social inequality has clearly risen in prominence. This trend is likely to be influenced by the severe impact of the coronavirus pandemic on household incomes. This can be seen in the recent report on 'Public Opinion in the Times

QA5 Among the following, what should be the main priorities of the European Parliament? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) **(% - EU)**

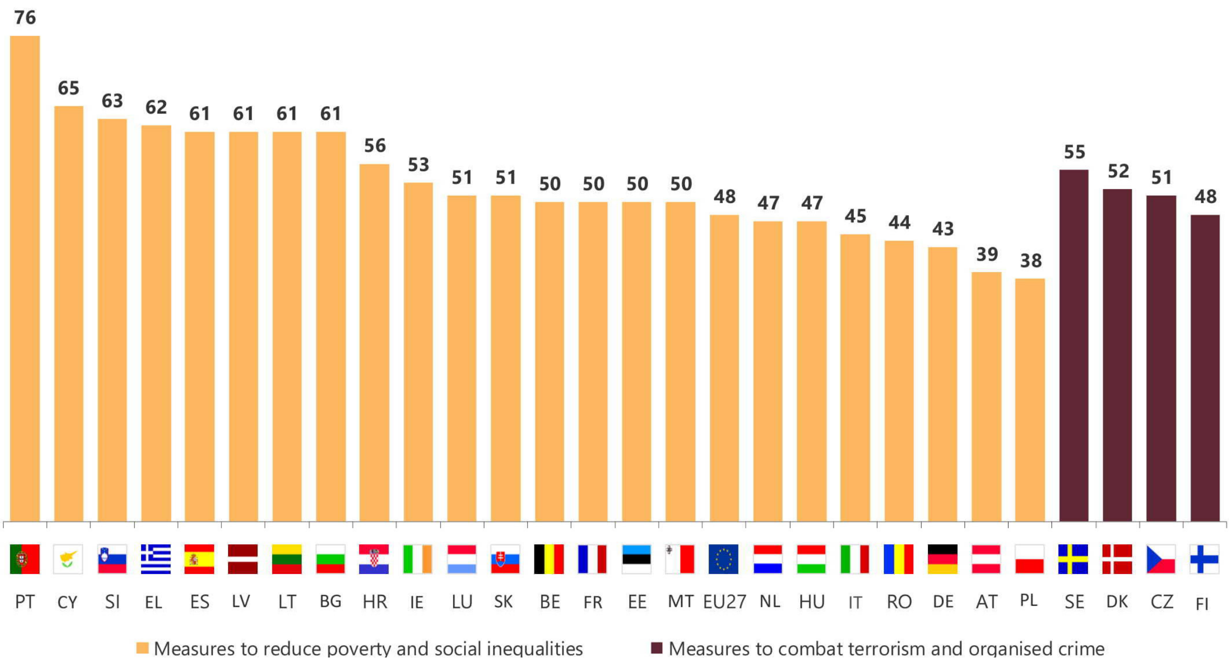


of COVID-19', in which the majority of respondents said they had experienced financial difficulties in their personal life since the start of the pandemic[19]. In the 2019 Parlemeter, combating climate change and preserving the environment, oceans and biodiversity ranked as the highest priority. This year, a similar proportion (around a third) prioritise measures to protect the environment and biodiversity, but this now ranks fourth in the list. This is in line with the findings from the Standard Eurobarometer, which saw a decrease in the proportion saying the environment and climate change is one of the most important issues facing the EU[20].

At the same time, environmental issues remain firmly on the public's agenda. In this year's survey, almost a quarter (23%) say the European Parliament should prioritise measures to develop renewable energy and reach carbon neutrality, which did not feature explicitly in last year's list. Therefore, the findings as a whole suggest a broadening of public concern across different environmental issues.

The importance of tackling poverty and social inequality is a widespread concern across the EU. In all but four Member States, this ranks as the highest priority for the European Parliament. The exceptions are Sweden, Denmark, Czechia and Finland; in each of these countries, measures to combat terrorism and organised crime are seen as the highest priority.

QA5 Among the following, what should be the main priorities of the European Parliament? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



19 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/files/be-heard/eurobarometer/2020/public_opinion_in_the_eu_in_time_of_coronavirus_crisis_3/en-covid19-survey3-report.pdf
20 Standard Eurobarometer 93. https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/2262

While tackling poverty and social inequality is seen as a high priority for the European Parliament in nearly all Member States, the proportions that choose this option vary. Around three in four (76%) see this as a priority in Portugal, some way ahead of the next highest figures in Cyprus (65%), Slovenia (63%) and Greece (62%). By contrast, less than four in ten citizens see this as a priority in Czechia (33%), Denmark and Poland (both 38%) and Austria (39%). The high priority given to this issue in Portugal is reflected in other answers relating to income and the economy: respondents in Portugal are also the most likely to say that priority should be given to measures to strive for full employment in all EU Member States (51%) and measures to support SMEs and strengthen the Economic and Monetary Union (31%)

In three countries, more than half of respondents say that measures to combat terrorism and organised crime are a priority for the European Parliament: Sweden (55%), Denmark (52%) and Czechia (51%). However, less than a quarter see this as a priority in Spain (16%), Romania (23%), Poland and Portugal (both 24%).

Respondents in Spain (48%) and Cyprus (47%) are most likely to want to prioritise measures to improve access to quality education for all, while those in Denmark (47%) and Sweden (46%) are most likely to prioritise measures to protect the environment and biodiversity. The same two countries also rank highest in the priority given to developing renewable energies and reaching carbon neutrality: Sweden (49%), Denmark (42%), as well as Ireland (42%).

The other clear feature in the analysis is that Greece ranks highest on two of the priorities: measures to strengthen democracy in giving EU citizens a greater role in decision-making (30%) and measures to ensure strong external borders and establish a truly common European asylum system (36%).

A socio-demographic analysis reveals differences in terms of gender, age and level of education.

Women are more likely than men to say that priority should be given to measures to reduce poverty and social inequalities and measures to improve access to quality education for all. However, men are more likely than women to prioritise measures to develop renewable energies and reach carbon neutrality and measures to ensure strong external borders and establish a truly common European asylum system.

QA5 Among the following, what should be the main priorities of the European Parliament? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)
(%)

	Measures to reduce poverty and social inequalities	Measures to combat terrorism and organised crime	Measures to improve access to quality education for all	Measures to protect our environment and biodiversity	Measures to provide affordable and safe food for citizens and a fair standard of living for farmers	Measures to develop renewable energy and reach carbon neutrality	Measures for a stronger Europe in the world through better cooperation and trade with global players and neighbouring countries	Measures to strive for full employment in all EU Member States	Measures to strengthen democracy in giving EU citizens a greater role in decision-making	Measures to ensure strong external borders and establish a truly common European asylum system	Measures to support SMEs and strengthen the Economic and Monetary Union	Measures to fight disinformation and online hate speech	Measures to develop proper EU military and defence capabilities	Measures to accelerate the digital transformation of the industry and the economy	Measures to empower people by boosting digital skills	Other	None	Don't know
EU27	48	35	33	32	26	23	21	21	20	19	17	14	11	10	7	0	0	1
BE	50	39	34	39	28	35	31	15	22	28	11	17	13	5	4	0	0	0
BG	61	36	31	24	37	13	15	35	17	15	11	10	11	8	8	0	0	1
CZ	33	51	21	35	26	21	28	10	25	28	26	23	16	9	5	0	0	0
DK	38	52	16	47	14	42	35	12	21	30	9	11	11	5	4	0	0	1
DE	43	38	31	37	23	32	28	10	23	25	21	14	10	10	10	1	0	0
EE	50	42	22	39	30	25	38	13	21	14	22	22	19	9	6	0	0	0
IE	53	29	31	38	30	42	36	21	27	15	14	17	7	6	5	0	0	0
EL	62	28	26	33	19	17	22	30	30	36	21	12	18	6	7	0	0	0
ES	61	16	48	31	24	16	11	32	11	11	23	9	3	8	3	0	0	3
FR	50	49	41	36	25	20	18	14	18	13	14	14	12	6	5	0	1	2
HR	56	28	33	25	27	16	14	44	21	7	8	16	9	13	9	0	0	1
IT	45	29	29	29	24	20	17	29	17	15	20	10	10	16	10	0	0	2
CY	65	32	47	32	24	13	12	37	17	13	8	9	20	9	7	0	0	1
LV	61	34	35	23	28	13	28	28	21	14	14	23	17	7	8	0	0	0
LT	61	39	21	22	30	18	33	19	25	20	11	17	20	9	8	0	0	0
LU	51	33	32	36	24	31	33	15	27	25	19	16	15	8	3	0	0	0
HU	47	35	23	20	36	19	13	24	23	19	11	17	16	14	7	0	0	1
MT	50	37	31	41	26	26	14	15	23	22	12	16	6	7	9	0	0	4
NL	47	45	34	36	27	28	42	7	22	34	7	20	19	4	5	0	0	0
AT	39	36	31	32	31	28	19	19	15	31	19	13	13	10	10	0	0	0
PL	38	24	21	25	27	20	18	23	21	15	11	17	13	13	10	0	0	1
PT	76	24	41	25	31	10	12	51	23	5	31	6	2	7	6	0	0	3
RO	44	23	34	18	27	11	18	21	15	10	15	12	14	13	9	0	0	3
SI	63	38	24	32	28	26	29	27	28	20	18	24	8	7	3	0	0	0
SK	51	32	34	37	30	15	11	26	18	14	12	18	9	14	7	0	0	0
FI	42	48	17	26	28	34	34	18	26	29	8	16	15	6	1	0	0	0
SE	42	55	18	46	22	49	33	10	23	26	6	16	14	3	2	0	0	0

Highest percentage per country *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item Lowest percentage per item

There are differences by age group. Older respondents are more likely to want to prioritise measures to combat terrorism and organised crime, measures to provide affordable and safe food for citizens and a fair standard of living for farmers, and measures to ensure strong external borders and establish a truly common European asylum system. By contrast, younger respondents are more likely to prioritise measures to improve access to quality education for all and measures to protect the environment and biodiversity.

More highly educated respondents are more likely to want the European Parliament to prioritise measures to develop renewable energy and reach carbon neutrality, measures for a stronger Europe in the world through better cooperation and trade with global players and neighbouring countries, and measures to strengthen democracy in giving EU citizens a greater role in decision-making. By contrast, less educated respondents tend to prioritise issues related to income and equality: measures to reduce poverty and social inequalities, measures to provide affordable and safe food for citizens and a fair standard of living for farmers, and measures to strive for full employment in all EU Member States.

There are also differences depending on respondents' image of the European Parliament. Those with a positive image are more likely to prioritise measures to protect our environment and biodiversity, measures to develop renewable energy and reach carbon neutrality, and measures for a stronger Europe in the world. Respondents whose overall image of the European Parliament is negative are more likely to prioritise measures to combat terrorism and organised crime and measures to ensure strong external borders and establish a truly common European asylum system.

QA5 Among the following, what should be the main priorities of the European Parliament?
(MAX. 4 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Measures to reduce poverty and social inequalities	Measures to combat terrorism and organised crime	Measures to improve access to quality education for all	Measures to protect our environment and biodiversity	Measures to provide affordable and safe food for citizens and a fair standard of living for farmers	Measures to develop renewable energy and reach carbon neutrality	Measures for a stronger Europe in the world through better cooperation and trade with global players and neighbouring countries
EU27	48	35	33	32	26	23	21
Gender							
Man	45	33	29	30	24	25	23
Woman	51	36	36	34	27	21	20
Age							
15-24	48	32	43	38	20	27	18
25-39	47	29	38	34	25	26	20
40-54	48	34	32	32	25	23	23
55+	49	38	27	29	28	20	22
Education (End of)							
15-	53	34	29	24	30	12	13
16-19	49	36	30	28	28	19	19
20+	46	34	34	36	23	29	28
Still studying	48	31	46	44	18	31	18
Image of European Parliament							
Positive	46	30	33	35	24	28	26
Neutral	50	36	33	32	26	21	19
Negative	47	39	31	26	28	18	18

Items mentioned by more than 25%

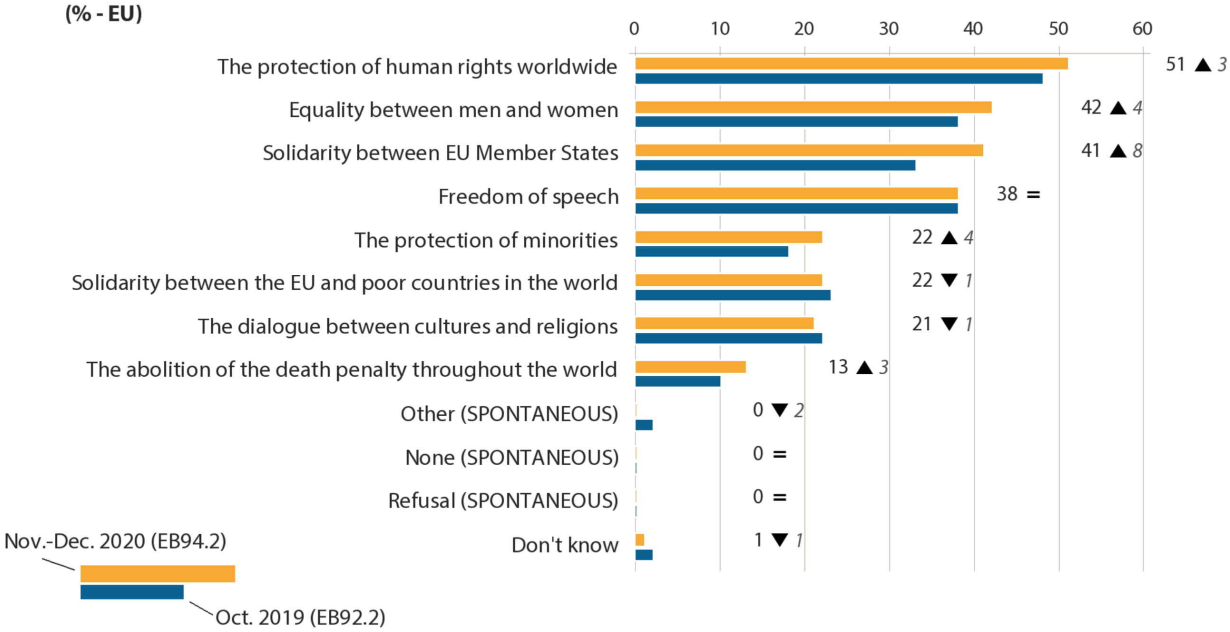
Values to defend for the European Parliament

As in previous studies, the protection of human rights worldwide is the value that citizens think the European Parliament should defend as a matter of priority. This is chosen by around half of respondents (51%, +3pp since October 2019). The next group of values is chosen by around four in ten respondents: gender equality (42%, +4 pp), solidarity between EU Member States (41%, +8 pp) and freedom of speech (38%, =).

Around one in five see the following values as a matter of priority: the protection of minorities (22%, +4 pp), international solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world (22%, -1 pp) and the dialogue between cultures and religions (21%, -1 pp). Finally, 13% (+3 pp) look at the abolition of the death penalty in the world as a pressing value to fight for.

The largest increase is for solidarity between EU Member States, and there have been some very large increases in individual countries, as discussed below. This ties in with results from the recent survey Public Opinion in Times of COVID-19[21], in which the majority of respondents said they were dissatisfied with the solidarity between EU Member States in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. This indicates that the pandemic has brought this issue even more closely into focus, and citizens are keener than ever that solidarity between Member States should be maintained and improved.

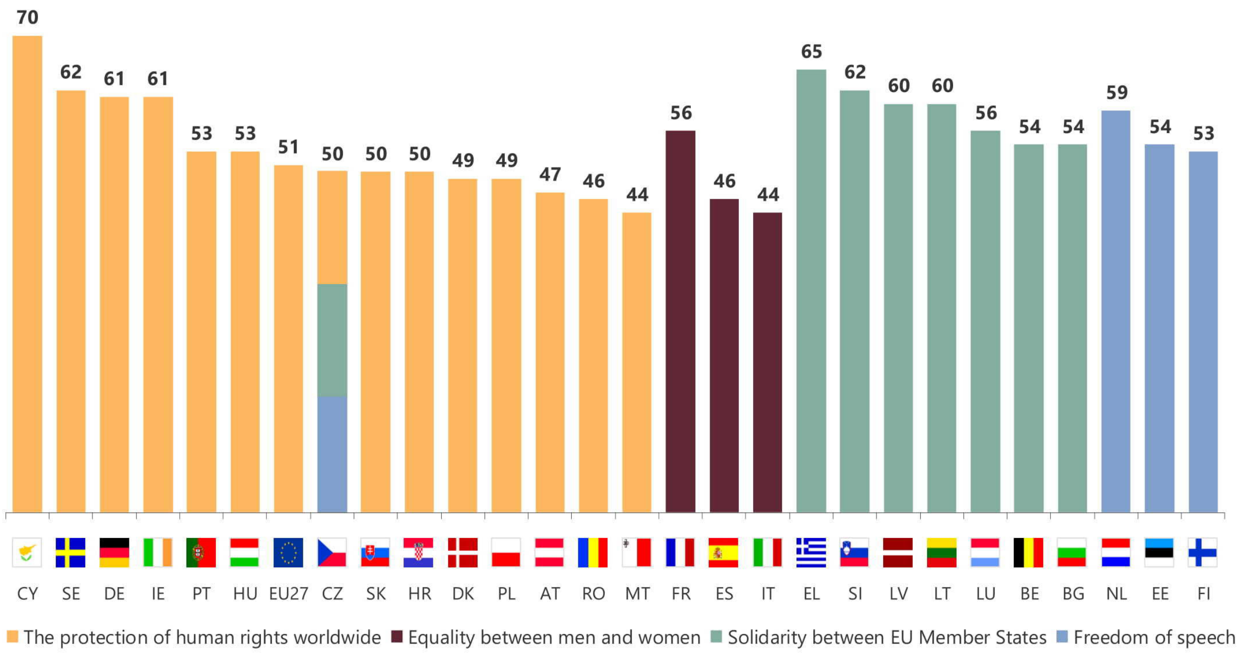
QA6 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)



21 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/files/be-heard/eurobarometer/2020/public_opinion_in_the_eu_in_time_of_coronavirus_crisis_3/en-covid19-survey3-report.pdf

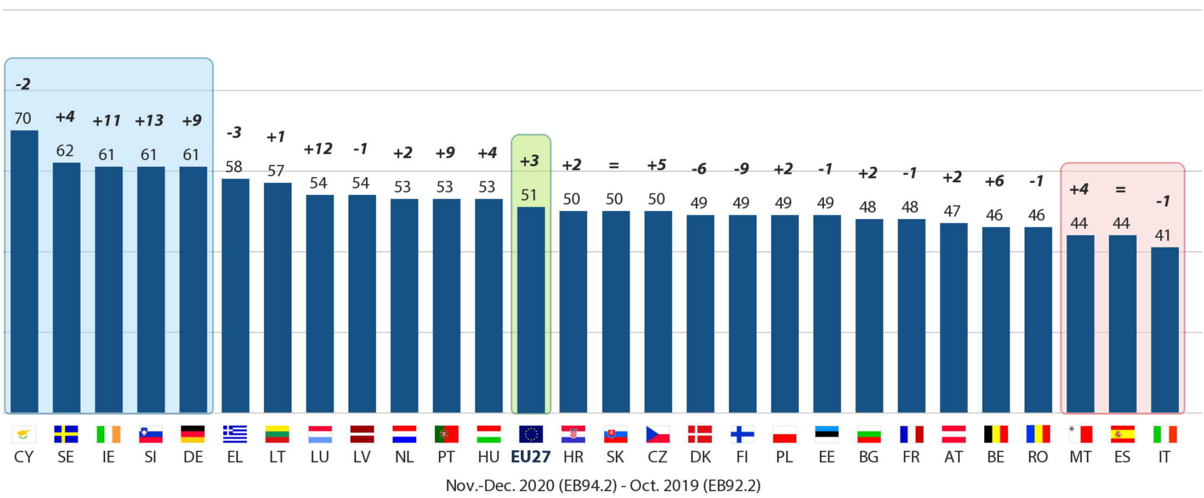
The protection of human rights worldwide ranks as the most important value for the European Parliament to defend in 14 countries, while solidarity between EU Member States ranks highest in eight countries. Gender equality is the highest priority in France, Spain and Italy, while freedom of speech is ranked highest in the Netherlands, Estonia and Finland. In Czechia, three values rank joint highest: the protection of human rights worldwide, solidarity between EU Member States and freedom of speech.

QA6 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



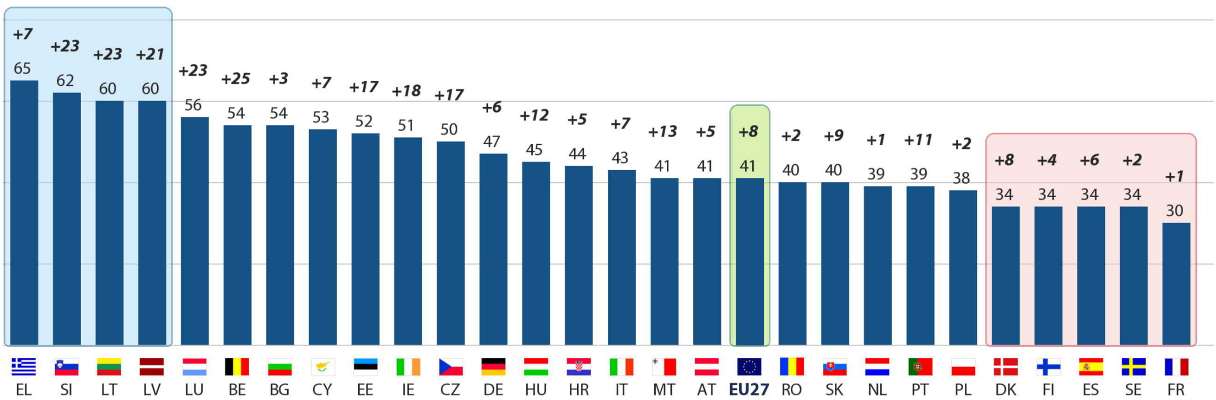
Across the EU as a whole, the protection of human rights worldwide is seen as the highest priority for Parliament. The proportion that see this as a priority varies by country, from 70% in Cyprus to 41% in Italy.

QA6 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE)



The other value that is worth highlighting is solidarity between EU Member States. This has seen a substantial increase among EU citizens overall (+8 pp) and some very large increases in individual countries: Belgium (54%, +25 pp), Lithuania (60%, +23 pp), Slovenia (62%, +23 pp), Luxembourg (56%, +23 pp) and Latvia (60%, +21 pp).

QA6 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - SOLIDARITY BETWEEN EU MEMBER STATES)



In terms of socio-demographic variations, women are more likely than men to give a higher priority to gender equality, while men are more likely to choose solidarity between Member States as an important value. Young people are the most inclined to support gender equality and the freedom of speech, while older people are more likely to defend the solidarity between EU Member States.

More highly educated respondents are more likely to mention most of the values, particularly the solidarity between EU Member States, freedom of speech and the dialogue between cultures and religions. Respondents who have a positive image of the European Parliament are also more likely to say the different values are important. The one exception is freedom of speech, which is more likely to be chosen as an important value by those who hold a negative image of the European Parliament.

QA6 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	The protection of human rights worldwide	Equality between men and women	Solidarity between EU Member States	Freedom of speech	The protection of minorities	Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world	The dialogue between cultures and religions	The abolition of the death penalty throughout the world	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	51	42	41	38	22	22	21	13	0	0	0	1
Gender												
Man	49	36	45	41	22	23	22	12	0	0	0	1
Woman	52	48	38	36	22	21	21	14	0	0	0	1
Age												
15-24	54	48	29	45	23	23	22	15	0	0	0	1
25-39	53	44	39	40	22	22	22	11	0	0	0	1
40-54	48	40	42	39	23	23	21	13	0	0	0	1
55+	49	41	45	35	21	21	21	13	0	1	0	2
Education (End of)												
15-	47	41	34	30	22	20	16	15	1	1	0	5
16-19	49	42	41	38	22	22	20	13	0	0	0	1
20+	53	41	47	40	21	22	24	12	0	0	0	0
Still studying	56	50	31	44	26	21	24	15	0	0	0	0
Image of European Parliament												
Positive	53	43	47	34	25	25	23	15	0	0	0	0
Neutral	51	44	39	39	21	21	21	12	0	0	0	2
Negative	45	38	37	46	18	18	20	12	1	1	0	1

EU IMAGE AND MEMBERSHIP

This section of the report examines attitudes to the EU and how this has changed over time. In particular, citizens are asked to consider what they see as the benefits of EU membership, as well as the areas of disagreement between the EU and national governments.

Just as attitudes towards the European Parliament have become increasingly positive, the image of the EU shows a rise, with positive ratings at their highest level since 2007. Support for European Union membership has also reached a high point during the same timeframe, and more than seven in ten citizens now feel that their country has benefited from being part of the EU.

Underpinning these positive views are clear perceptions of the benefits that EU membership brings. The two main benefits are seen as the EU's contribution to economic growth at the national level and improved co-operation between Member States. We have already seen the importance of these issues: the economy is the chief concern of EU citizens as a result of the pandemic crisis, and this has also strengthened the desire for solidarity between Member States. The fact that the EU is associated positively with these two issues explains why positive ratings have been climbing.

Overall image of the EU

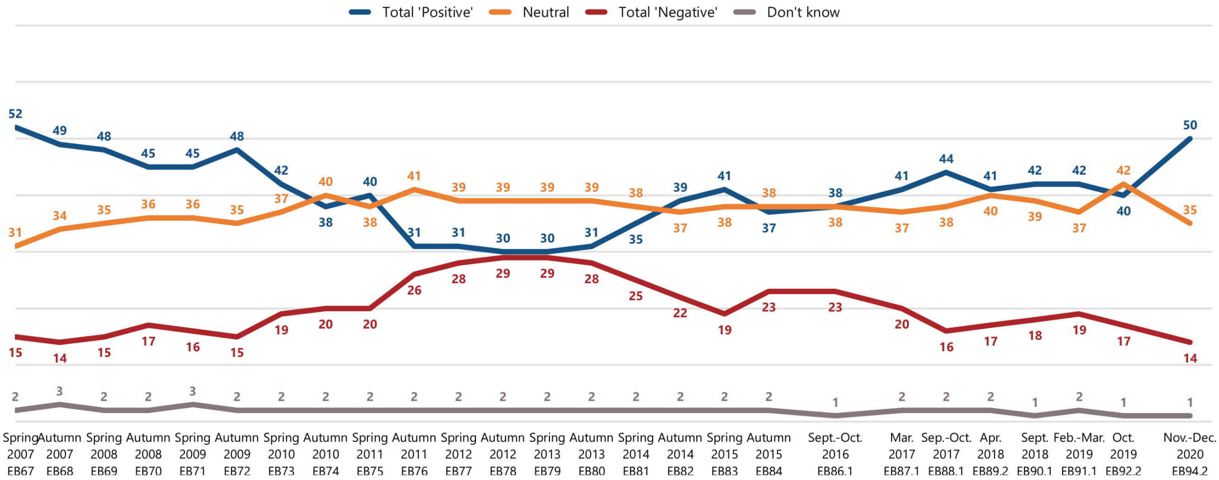
The image of the EU has seen a positive improvement in the last year. Half of EU citizens (50%) say their general image of the EU is positive, an increase of 10 percentage points since October 2019. One in seven respondents now say their image of the EU is negative (14%, -3 pp), extending the gap between positive and negative ratings which has widened over the last seven years. Neutral ratings have also decreased since October 2019 (35%, -7 pp), meaning that a positive image is now the clear majority view.

The image of the EU has been tracked in other surveys in the last year. In the summer of 2020, the Standard Eurobarometer identified a decline in the image of the EU over the previous year. However, the survey Public Opinion in Times of COVID-19 showed a strong increase in the EU's image between April/May and September/October. Putting these results together, we can see that the rise in the Parlemeter figures (as described here) reflects an annual rise which may have incorporated an initial fall before a strong increase in the second half of 2020.

The long-term pattern is similar to what we saw in relation to the European Parliament, with positive ratings at their highest level since before the 2008 economic downturn.

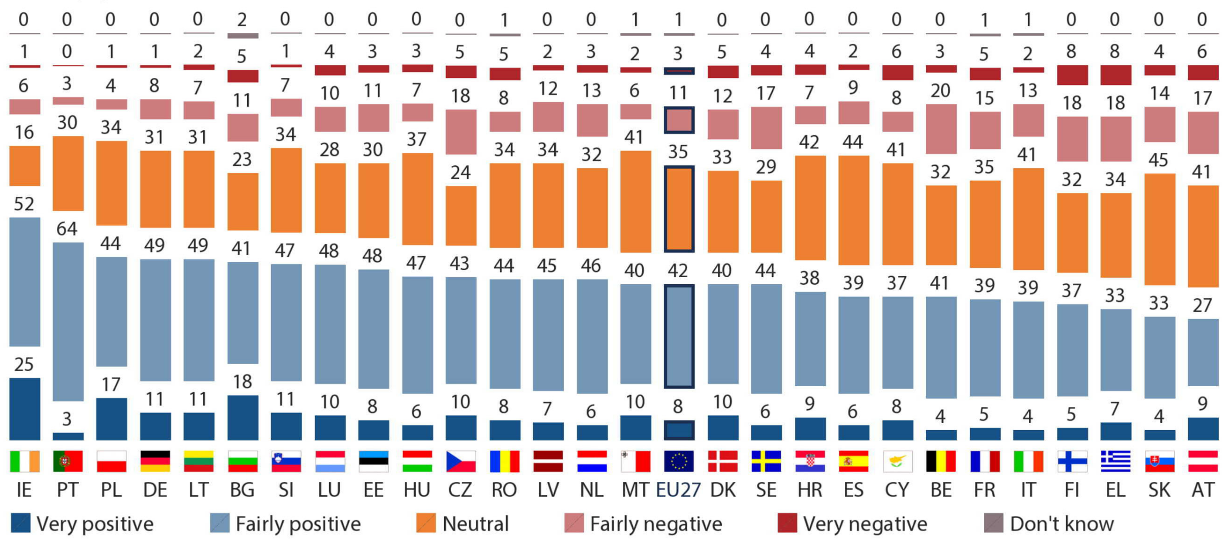
In all Member States, the EU is more likely to have a positive rather than a negative image, and in all but two countries the prevailing view is positive rather than neutral. The exceptions are Austria (41% neutral, 36% positive) and Slovakia (45% neutral, 37% positive).

SD16 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?
(% - EU)



Respondents in Ireland are most likely to have a positive image of the EU (77%), followed by those in Portugal (67%), Poland (61%), Germany and Lithuania (both 60%). Negative ratings are most common in Greece and Finland (both 26%), Austria, Czechia and Belgium (all 23%).

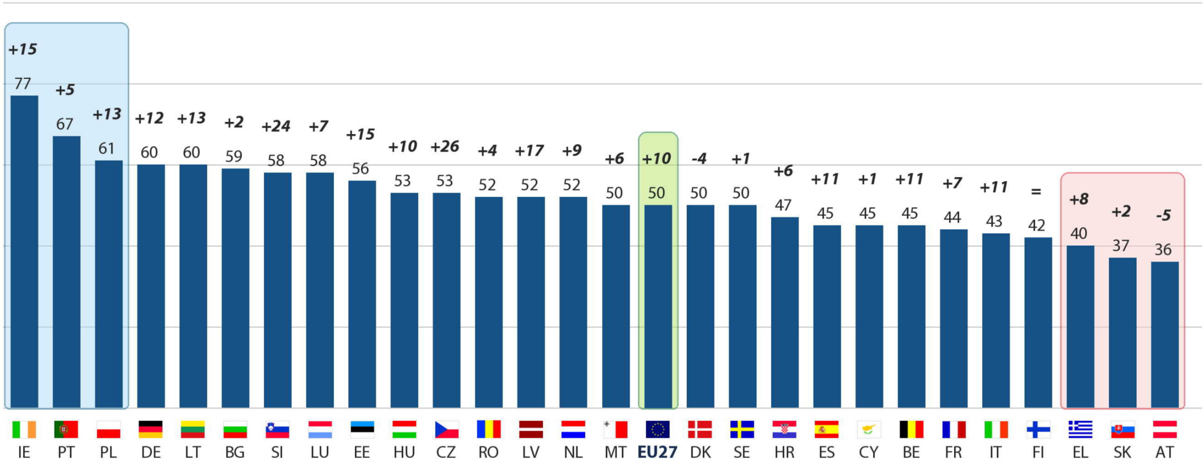
SD16 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?
(%)



The overall upward trend for the positive image of the EU is mirrored in 20 Member States which show an increase of at least three percentage points since October 2019. There are some very large increases, most notably in Czechia (53%, +26 pp), Slovenia (58%, +24 pp), Latvia (52%, +17 pp), Ireland (77%, +15 pp) and Estonia (56%, +15 pp).

At the same time, there have been some increases in negative ratings, the largest being in the Nordic countries: Finland (26%, +11 pp), Denmark (17%, +7 pp) and Sweden (21%, +6 pp).

SD16 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?
(% - TOTAL 'POSITIVE')



Nov.-Dec. 2020 (EB94.2) - Oct. 2019 (EB92.2)

The main differences in the socio-demographic analysis are by level of education and household finances. Citizens who are more highly educated tend to have a much more positive image of the EU (59% among those who finished education aged 20 or above), and the image of the EU is also more positive among those who rarely or never have difficulties paying household bills (55%), compared with those who often have problems (35%). In terms of occupation, managers and students (63% and 59% respectively) are the most positive of the groups.

The image of the EU is also linked with respondents' financial outlook: people who expect their living conditions to be worse in a year's time are more likely to have a negative image of the EU (24%).

Differences by age group are less pronounced, although younger people tend to be more positive than older people.

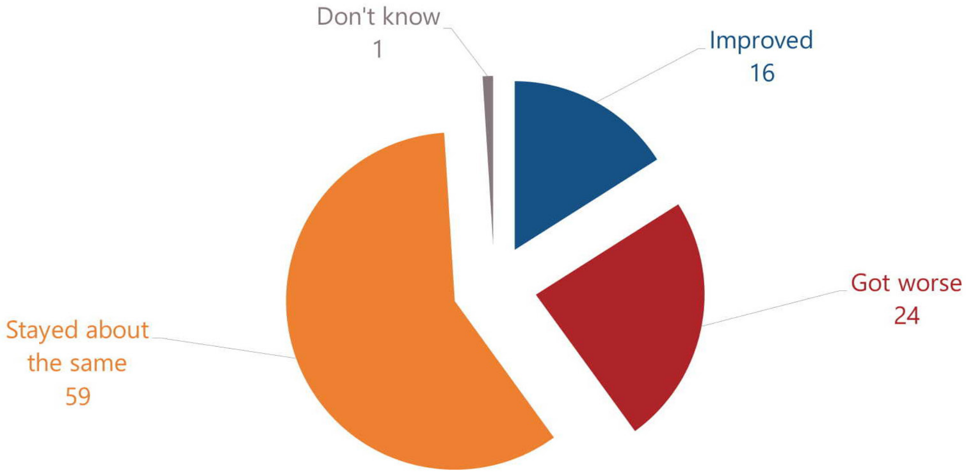
SD16 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?
(% - EU)

	Total 'Positive'	Neutral	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	50	35	14	1
Age				
15-24	54	36	9	1
25-39	52	36	12	0
40-54	50	35	15	0
55+	49	35	15	1
Education (End of)				
15-	38	45	16	1
16-19	46	39	15	0
20+	59	29	12	0
Still studying	59	31	10	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	52	33	15	0
Managers	63	25	12	0
Other white collars	53	35	12	0
Manual workers	45	41	13	1
House persons	42	43	15	0
Unemployed	39	43	18	0
Retired	48	35	16	1
Students	59	31	10	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	35	38	26	1
From time to time	42	41	16	1
Almost never/ Never	55	33	12	0
Your living conditions				
Better	61	30	9	0
Worse	36	39	24	1
The same	54	35	11	0

Development of the EU image

The previous section showed how the image of the EU has grown stronger over time. However, citizens themselves are less clear when asked directly about how their views have changed. The majority of EU citizens (59%) say that their image of the EU has stayed about the same over the last year. However, when their image has changed, they are more likely to say it has got worse (24%) rather than improved (16%).

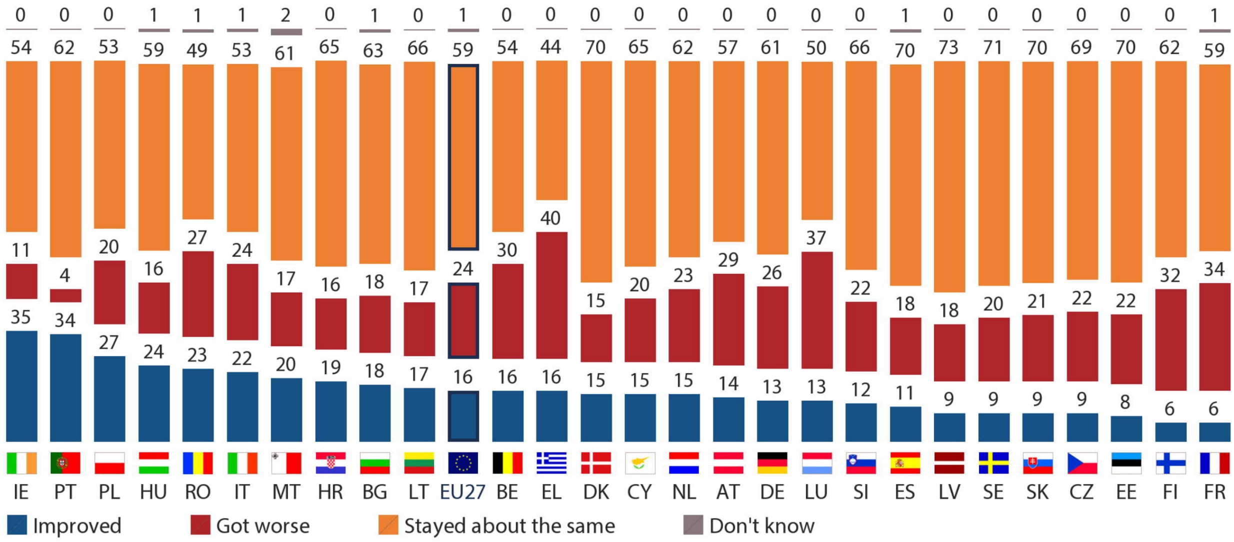
SD19 Over the last year, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same?
(% - EU)



In all Member States, the majority view is that people's image of the EU has stayed about the same over the last year, ranging from 73% in Latvia to 44% in Greece.

Attitudes are most positive in Ireland and Portugal, where 35% and 34% of respondents respectively say their image has improved. There are four other countries where respondents are more likely to say their image has improved than say it has got worse: Poland, Hungary, Malta and Croatia. There is an even split of views in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Denmark, while in the other 18 Member States, respondents are more likely to say their image has got worse rather than got better. The countries where respondents are most likely to say their image has got worse are Greece (40%), Luxembourg (37%), France (34%) and Finland (32%).

SD19 Over the last year, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same?
(%)



The socio-demographic analysis shows a consistent picture across the various groups, although some groups are more likely to say that they image of the EU has got worse over the last year: unemployed respondents (31%), those who have difficulties paying their bills (33%) and those who expect their living conditions to be worse in a year's time (38%).

SD19 Over the last year, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same?
(% - EU)

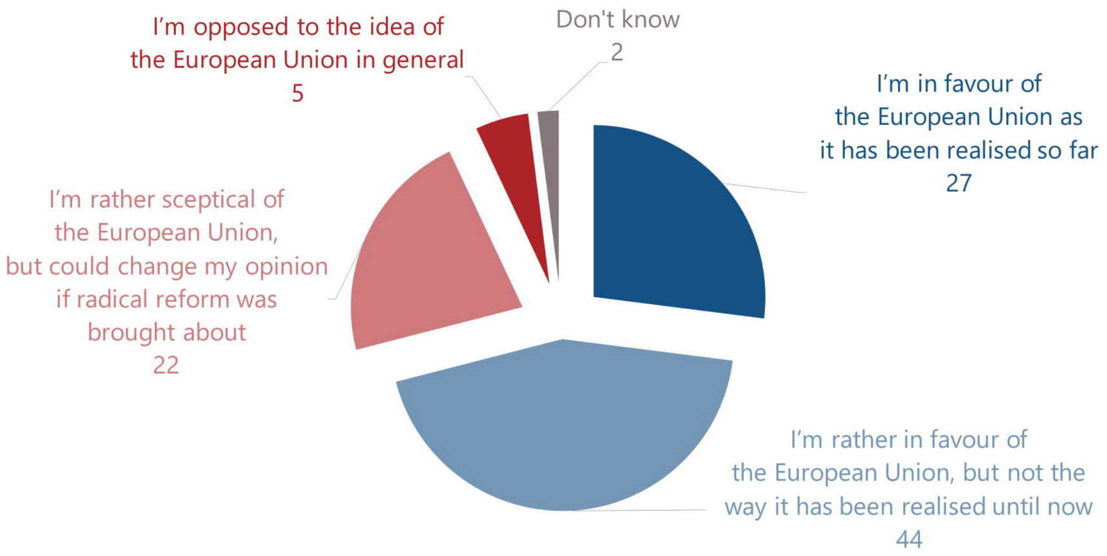
	Improved	Got worse	Stayed about the same	Don't know
EU27	16	24	59	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	19	27	54	0
Managers	18	25	57	0
Other white collars	19	21	60	0
Manual workers	15	26	58	1
House persons	15	21	63	1
Unemployed	11	31	57	1
Retired	13	24	62	1
Students	15	22	62	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	13	33	53	1
From time to time	16	29	54	1
Almost never/ Never	16	22	62	0
Your living conditions				
Better	25	21	54	0
Worse	12	38	50	0
The same	14	20	66	0

The renewed EU

As seen in the previous sections of the report, the image of the EU has seen a positive improvement in the last year. When considering their underlying opinion of the EU and how this has been realised, attitudes have remained more stable.

In total, around seven in ten respondents (71%) say they are in favour of the EU; specifically, 27% say they are in favour of the EU as it has been realised so far, and 44% say they are in favour, but not the way it has been realised until now. Around a quarter (27%) have more negative views, including 22% who say they are rather sceptical of the EU, but could change their opinion if radical reform was brought about, and 5% who say they are opposed to the idea of the EU in general.

QA8 Which of the following statements regarding the European Union is closest to your opinion? **(% - EU)**

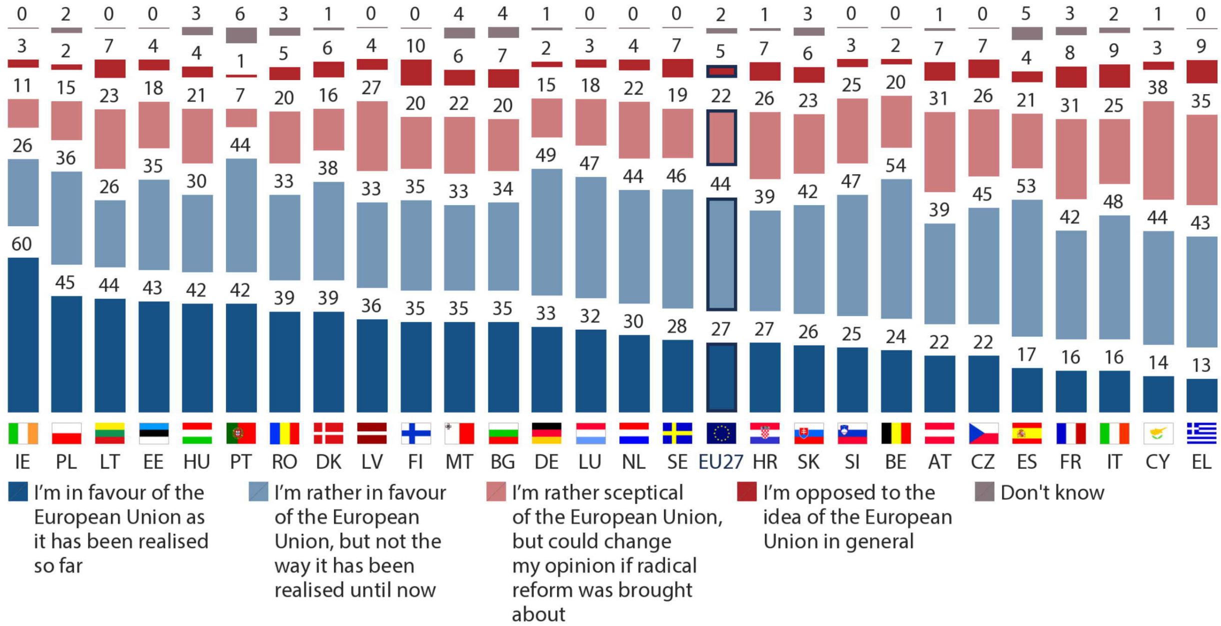


In every Member State, more than half of respondents say they are in favour of the EU, with the highest proportions in Ireland and Portugal (both 86%), Germany (82%) and Poland (81%). Respondents in Greece (56%), Cyprus and France (both 58%) are least likely to be in favour of the EU.

In Ireland, six in ten respondents (60%) say that they are in favour of the EU 'as it has been realised so far', and this also applies to more than four in ten respondents in Poland (45%), Lithuania (44%), Estonia (43%), Hungary and Portugal (both 42%).

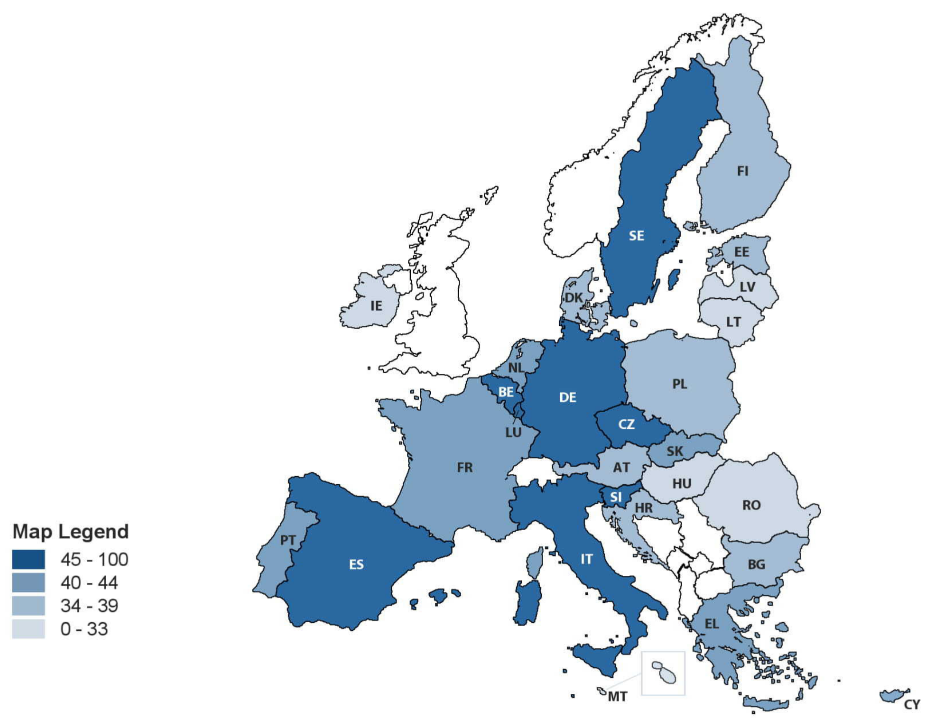
Negative views are most prevalent in Greece (where 44% oppose the idea of the EU or are sceptical towards it), Cyprus (41%), France (39%) and Austria (38%). Respondents are most likely to say that they are opposed to the idea of the EU in general in Finland (10%), Italy and Greece (both 9%).

QA8 Which of the following statements regarding the European Union is closest to your opinion?
(%)



In the EU as a whole, the most common view is that citizens are 'rather in favour of the EU, but not the way it has been realised until now'. More than half of respondents take this view in Belgium (54%) and Spain (53%), while the proportion is lowest in Ireland (26%) and Lithuania (26%). In general, there is a tendency for this view to be stronger in countries in the west of Europe than in the east.

QA8 Which of the following statements regarding the European Union is closest to your opinion?
(% - I'M RATHER IN FAVOUR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, BUT NOT THE WAY IT HAS BEEN REALISED UNTIL NOW)



The socio-demographic analysis shows a familiar pattern by age group, with younger respondents more likely to be in favour of the EU than older respondents. The proportion that say they are in favour of the EU as it has been realised so far is highest among 15-24 year olds (35%), while the proportion that are sceptical or opposed to the idea of the EU ranges from 22% among those aged 15-24 to 29% among those aged 55 or over.

There is a difference by level of education: those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say they are in favour of the EU as it has been realised so far (30% compared with 22% of those who left education by the age of 15) or that they are in favour of the EU but not the way it has been realised until now (49% compared with 36%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are more likely to be sceptical or opposed to the idea of the EU (44% vs. 23% of those who never or almost never have difficulties), and are less likely to be in favour of the EU as it has been realised so far (16% vs. 30%).

QA8 Which of the following statements regarding the European Union is closest to your opinion?
(% - EU)

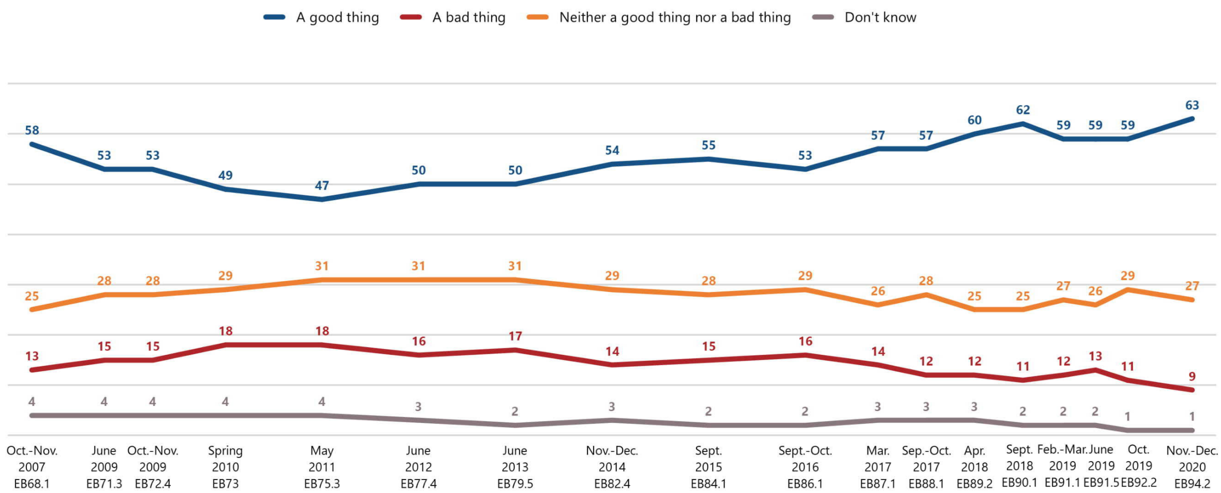
	I'm in favour of the European Union as it has been realised so far	I'm rather in favour of the European Union, but not the way it has been realised until now	I'm rather sceptical of the European Union, but could change my opinion if radical reform was brought about	I'm opposed to the idea of the European Union in general	Don't know
EU27	27	44	22	5	2
Age					
15-24	35	41	18	4	2
25-39	28	47	20	4	1
40-54	26	46	22	5	1
55+	25	43	23	6	3
Education (End of)					
15-	22	36	27	8	7
16-19	24	43	25	6	2
20+	30	49	17	3	1
Still studying	36	44	15	3	2
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	16	37	32	12	3
From time to time	22	43	26	7	2
Almost never/ Never	30	45	19	4	2

Membership of the EU

Citizen support for EU membership has reached the highest point recorded since 2007, when this question was asked in the first Parlemeter survey. More than six in ten Europeans (63%, +4 pp) are in favour of their country's EU membership, continuing a generally steady increase going back to 2011. The proportion that see EU membership as a bad thing has fallen to single figures for the first time (9%, -2 pp).

Despite the uncertainty and trauma associated with the coronavirus pandemic, the proportion of citizens with a confident outlook towards the EU continues to rise.

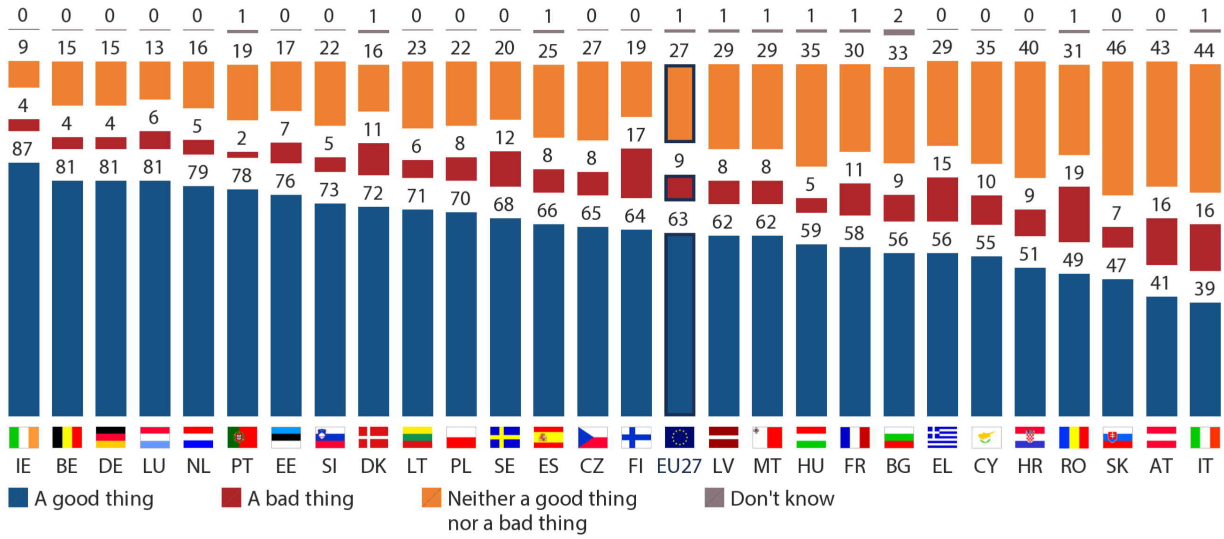
QA9 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(% - EU)



A majority of respondents in 25 Member States think that their country's membership is a good thing, although this level of support does vary considerably, from 87% in Ireland to 47% in Slovakia. In the remaining two Member States, Italy and Austria, the prevailing view is that EU membership is neither good nor bad for their country: 44% in Italy (compared with 39% who think it is a good thing), and 43% in Austria (compared with 41%).

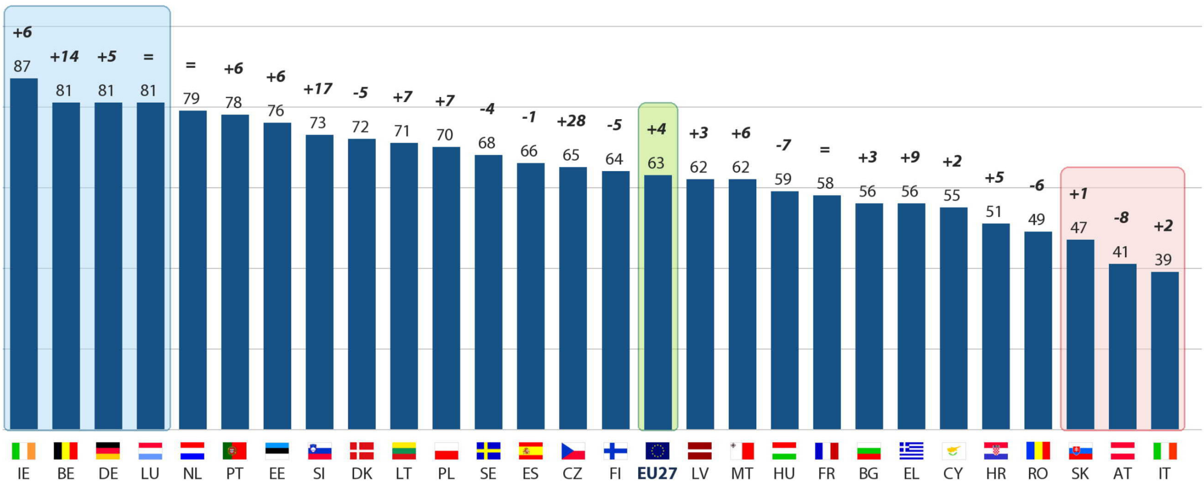
The proportion of respondents that believe EU membership is a bad thing for their country is as low as 2% in Portugal, and is highest at 19% in Romania.

QA9 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(%)



Compared with the last survey in October 2019, 14 Member States show a rise in support for EU membership of 3 percentage points or more, while six register an equivalent decrease. Some large increases in support can be seen in Czechia (65%, +28 pp), Slovenia (73%, +17 pp) and Belgium (81%, +14 pp), while the largest decreases are found in Austria (41%, -8 pp) and Hungary (59%, -7 pp).

QA9 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(% - A GOOD THING)



The socio-demographic analysis shows a clear difference by level of education, with more highly educated people more likely to say that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (75% of those who finished education at the age of 20 or above). Support is also particularly high among mangers (77%), while house persons (50%) and unemployed respondents (56%) are least likely to support EU membership.

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are also less likely to support EU membership (47%), along with those who expect their living conditions to get worse in the next 12 months (46%).

As seen in previous years, young people tend to support EU membership more than older people, although the gap may have narrowed: 68% of 15-24 year olds think their country's membership is a good thing, compared with 61% of people aged 55 or over (last year the figures were 64% and 54% respectively).

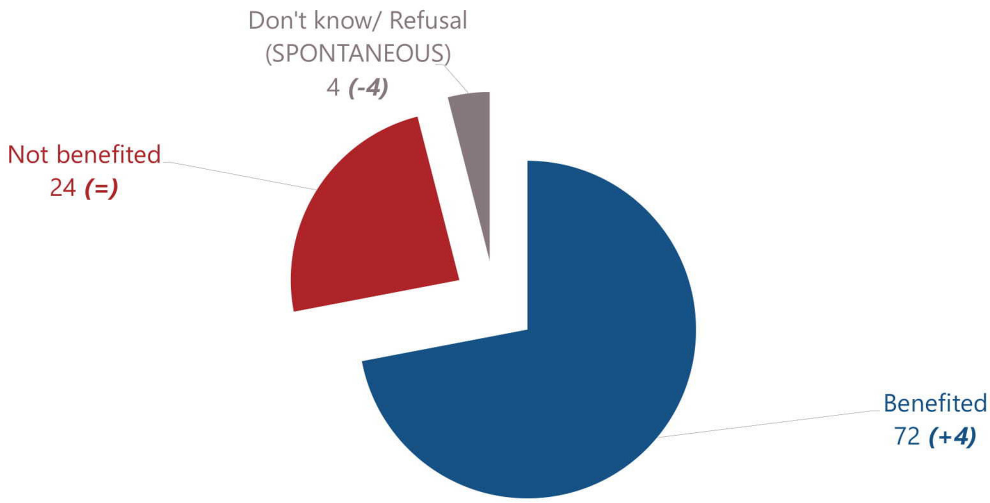
QA9 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(% - EU)

	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	Don't know
EU27	63	9	27	1
Age				
15-24	68	6	25	1
25-39	66	10	24	0
40-54	63	10	27	0
55+	61	9	29	1
Education (End of)				
15-	49	12	37	2
16-19	57	12	31	0
20+	75	6	19	0
Still studying	72	6	22	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	65	10	25	0
Managers	77	7	16	0
Other white collars	66	7	27	0
Manual workers	57	11	31	1
House persons	50	14	35	1
Unemployed	56	13	30	1
Retired	62	10	27	1
Students	72	6	22	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	47	17	35	1
From time to time	50	15	34	1
Almost never/ Never	70	6	23	1
Your living conditions				
Better	73	7	20	0
Worse	46	20	33	1
The same	68	6	26	0

Benefits of membership

Reflecting their views on membership of the EU being a good thing, more than seven in ten EU citizens (72%, +4 pp compared with June 2019) think that, on balance, their country has benefited from being part of the EU. Around one in four (24%, =) say their country has not benefited from membership.

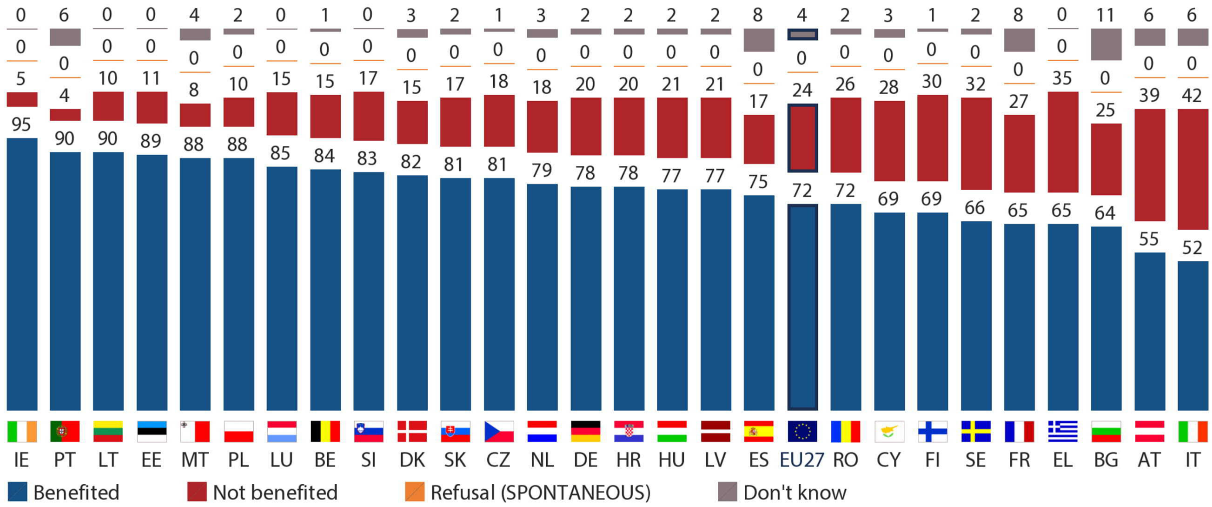
QA10 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?
(% - EU)



(Nov.-Dec. 2020, EB94.2 - June 2019, EB91.5)

In every Member State, more than half of respondents say that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU, and this applies to nine in ten respondents or more in Ireland (95%), Portugal and Lithuania (both 90%). This proportion falls to 52% in Italy and 55% in Austria, and these countries also have the highest proportions that think their country has not benefited from EU membership (42% and 39% respectively).

QA10 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?
(%)



Socio-demographic differences closely mirror those already seen in relation to whether EU membership is seen as a good thing. The view that their country has benefited from EU membership is strongest among more highly educated people (81% of those who finished education at the age of 20 or above), managers (83%) and those who rarely or never have difficulties with bills (77%), as well as those who expect their living conditions to get better in the next 12 months (80%). The familiar age difference applies, with younger people more likely to see the benefits of EU membership than older people (78% of 15-24 year olds compared with 68% of those aged 55 or over).

QA10 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?
(% - EU)

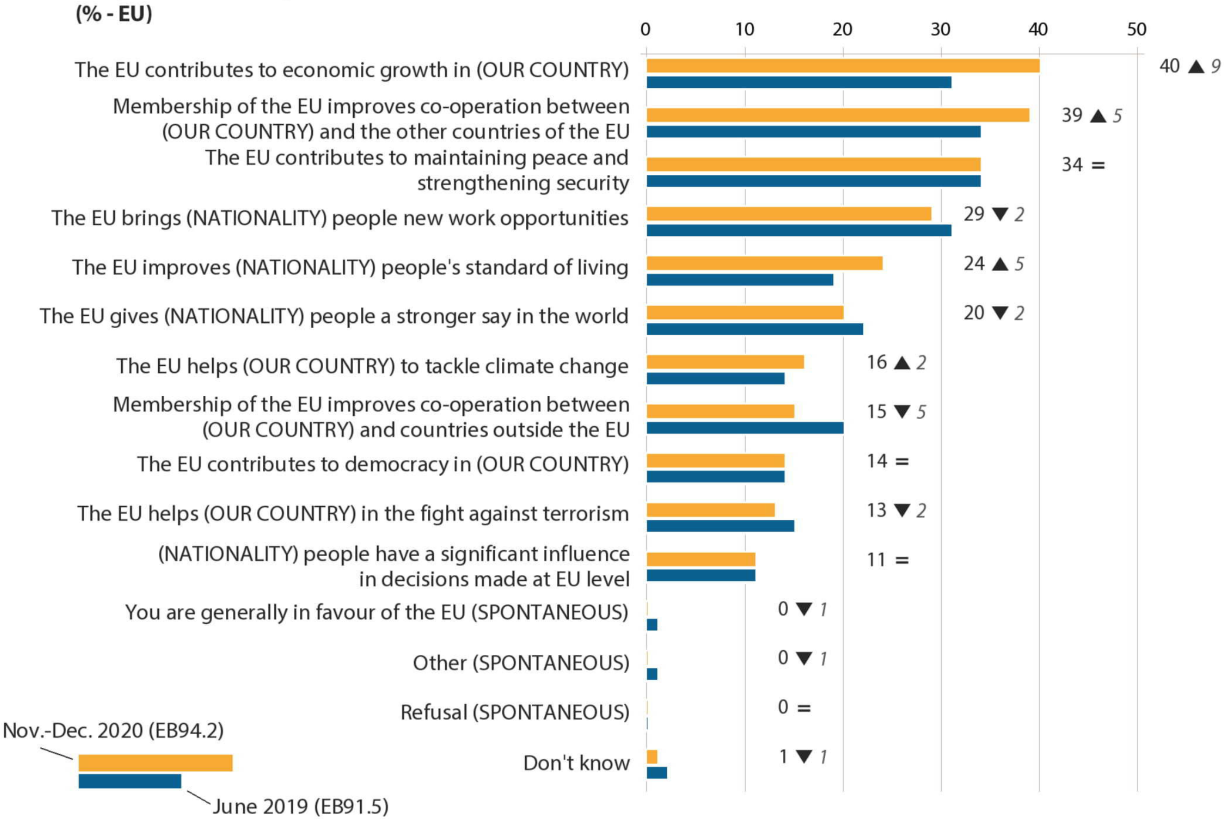
	Benefited	Not benefited	Don't know
EU27	72	24	4
Age			
15-24	78	17	5
25-39	77	20	3
40-54	73	24	3
55+	68	27	5
Education (End of)			
15-	57	33	10
16-19	68	28	4
20+	81	17	2
Still studying	80	16	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	73	25	2
Managers	83	16	1
Other white collars	77	20	3
Manual workers	70	25	5
House persons	58	32	10
Unemployed	66	29	5
Retired	68	27	5
Students	80	16	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	58	35	7
From time to time	63	32	5
Almost never/ Never	77	19	4
Your living conditions			
Better	80	17	3
Worse	61	35	4
The same	75	21	4

Main reasons why the country benefited

The two main benefits of EU membership, both of which have shown a marked increase since June 2019, are the EU's contribution to economic growth at the national level (40%, +9 pp) and improved co-operation between Member States (39%, +5 pp). These are followed by the EU's contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening security (34%, =).

As well as bringing economic growth, the EU is seen as bringing new work opportunities (29%, -2 pp) and improving standards of living (24%, + 5pp). It is notable that employment and economic benefits feature prominently, given the economic challenges that are being seen during the coronavirus pandemic, and the importance placed on measures to reduce poverty and social inequalities in the priorities for the European Parliament (as seen earlier in this report). Similarly, the importance of solidarity and co-operation between Member States has been highlighted by citizens during the pandemic.

QA11 Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

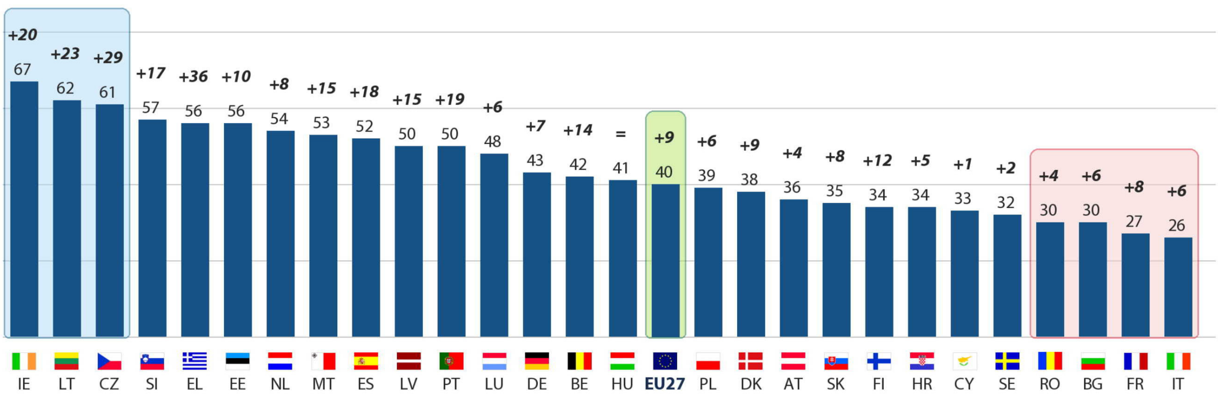


Base: those who think that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU (19687 respondents)

The EU's contribution to economic growth is seen as the most important benefit of EU membership overall, and this is highlighted by at least half of respondents in 11 Member States, most prominently in Ireland (67%), Lithuania (62%) and Czechia (61%). This is least likely to be seen as a benefit of membership by respondents in Italy (26%) and France (27%).

There have been some large increases since June 2019 in the proportions giving this as a benefit of EU membership. The largest rises are seen in Greece (+36 pp), Czechia (+29 pp), Lithuania (+23 pp) and Ireland (+20 pp). The proportion has either increased or stayed the same in every country.

QA11 Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE EU CONTRIBUTES TO ECONOMIC GROWTH IN (OUR COUNTRY))



Base: those who think that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU (19687 respondents)

There is wide variation in the proportions that mention improved co-operation between Member States as a benefit of EU membership, ranging from 74% in Sweden and 70% in Finland to 18% in Romania, 20% in Poland and 21% in Hungary. There have been some large increases on this measure since June 2019, particularly in Slovenia (54%, +26 pp), Ireland (46%, +25 pp) and Belgium (60%, +22 pp).

On the other benefits of EU membership, respondents in Germany are most likely to say that the EU's contribution to maintaining peace is a benefit (52%), while more than half of respondents mention the benefit of new work opportunities in Bulgaria (62%), Croatia (55%) and Latvia (53%). The impact of EU membership on standards of living is mentioned most frequently by respondents in Ireland (51%).

QA11 Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

	The EU contributes to economic growth in (OUR COUNTRY)	Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and the other countries of the EU	The EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security	The EU brings (NATIONALITY) people new work opportunities	The EU improves (NATIONALITY) people's standard of living	The EU gives (NATIONALITY) people a stronger say in the world	The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) to tackle climate change	Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and countries outside the EU	The EU contributes to democracy in (OUR COUNTRY)	The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) in the fight against terrorism	(NATIONALITY) people have a significant influence in decisions made at EU level	You are generally in favour of the EU (SPONTANEOUS)	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	40	39	34	29	24	20	16	15	14	13	11	0	0	0	1
BE	42	60	31	18	13	25	27	18	4	15	10	0	0	0	0
BG	30	35	24	62	26	21	8	13	18	12	8	0	0	0	0
CZ	61	47	22	47	39	6	7	6	16	5	2	0	0	0	0
DK	38	64	37	16	10	32	15	17	4	18	8	0	0	0	0
DE	43	46	52	19	20	18	18	17	12	15	9	0	0	0	0
EE	56	47	30	49	35	14	8	20	8	3	3	0	0	0	0
IE	67	46	17	37	51	20	16	9	8	4	9	0	0	0	0
EL	56	46	31	26	29	16	9	19	13	5	6	0	0	0	0
ES	52	25	21	27	33	17	14	11	15	14	6	0	1	0	1
FR	27	42	39	21	10	30	14	14	9	18	17	0	0	0	4
HR	34	25	25	55	31	18	11	15	18	12	7	0	0	0	0
IT	26	40	32	30	15	30	19	21	18	13	17	0	0	0	0
CY	33	24	38	36	24	31	18	12	19	11	7	0	1	0	1
LV	50	40	29	53	40	12	5	11	11	3	3	0	0	0	0
LT	62	39	26	49	38	14	8	7	10	6	4	0	0	0	0
LU	48	51	38	22	18	31	8	18	9	5	16	0	0	0	1
HU	41	21	25	46	39	12	14	9	18	11	9	0	0	0	1
MT	53	36	8	47	31	28	19	8	17	4	11	0	1	0	1
NL	54	59	42	10	16	6	31	19	4	20	10	0	0	0	0
AT	36	35	31	28	24	26	21	22	9	19	11	1	1	0	0
PL	39	20	21	38	39	17	16	14	21	10	11	0	0	0	1
PT	50	30	29	33	34	34	9	14	20	9	7	1	1	0	1
RO	30	18	20	46	36	16	10	11	25	15	12	0	0	0	2
SI	57	54	22	47	37	7	11	12	16	3	3	0	0	0	0
SK	35	27	23	47	32	18	14	13	14	13	11	0	1	0	1
FI	34	70	34	38	18	19	15	18	2	9	4	0	0	0	0
SE	32	74	42	30	6	17	23	13	4	13	14	0	0	0	0

Highest percentage per country *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item Lowest percentage per item

Base: those who think that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU (19687 respondents)

The socio-demographic analysis shows similar results for men and women, except that men are more likely than women to see the EU's contribution to economic growth as a benefit of membership.

Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to say that the EU's contribution to democracy is a benefit, while older people are more likely to mention the impact of EU membership on maintaining peace and fighting terrorism.

More highly educated respondents are particularly likely to mention the benefits of economic growth and improved co-operation between Member States.

QA11 Which of the following are the main reasons for thinking that (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	The EU contributes to economic growth in (OUR COUNTRY)	Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and the other countries of the EU	The EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security	The EU brings (NATIONALITY) people new work opportunities	The EU improves (NATIONALITY) people's standard of living	The EU gives (NATIONALITY) people a stronger say in the world
EU27	40	39	34	29	24	20
Gender						
Man	44	39	34	28	26	20
Woman	37	39	33	29	23	21
Age						
15-24	38	40	30	31	24	23
25-39	42	39	29	30	25	20
40-54	41	39	33	28	23	20
55+	39	39	38	28	25	19
Education (End of)						
15-	34	28	32	31	25	21
16-19	37	33	32	30	25	20
20+	45	46	36	27	23	20
Still studying	41	42	34	30	23	24

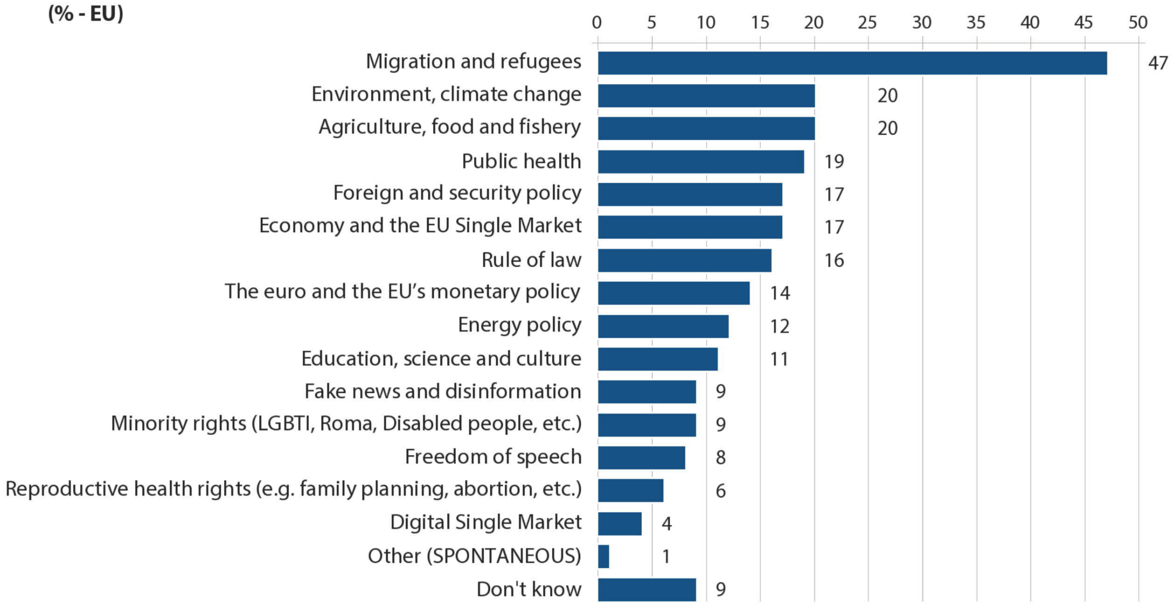
Base: those who think that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU (19687 respondents)

Main areas of disagreement

The main area of disagreement between the EU and national governments is considered by citizens to be migration and refugees, mentioned by nearly half (47%) of respondents. This is well ahead of the next most frequent responses: environment and climate change (20%), agriculture, food and fishery (20%) and public health (19%). Around one in six perceive there to be disagreement in relation to foreign and security policy (17%), economy and the EU single market (17%) and rule of law (16%).

It is worth noting that, while migration and refugees is seen as by far the biggest area of disagreement, this issue has fallen in importance during the coronavirus pandemic. In the latest Standard Eurobarometer, there was a sharp fall in the proportion of citizens that said immigration was one of the most important issues facing the EU[22].

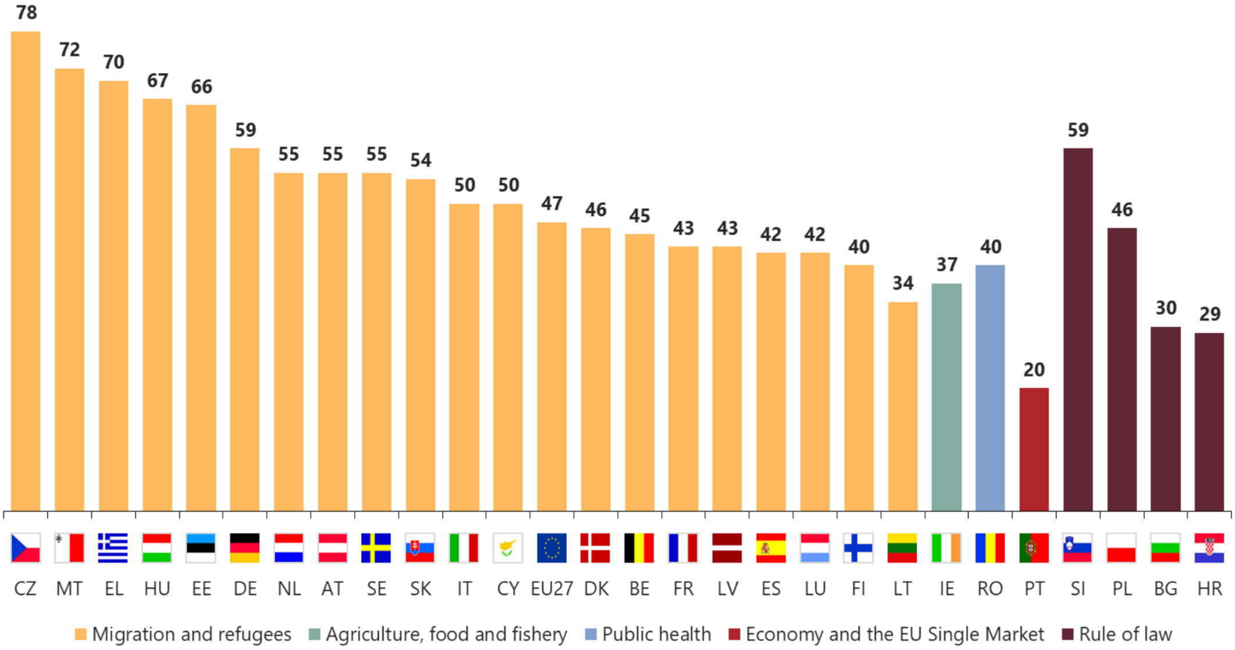
QA14T Among the following, which are, if any, the main areas of disagreement between (NATIONALITY) government and the EU? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)



In 20 Member States, the issue of migration and refugees is thought to be the main area of disagreement between the EU and the national government. There are four countries where rule of law ranks highest as an area of disagreement: Slovenia, Poland, Bulgaria and Croatia. In addition, each of the following areas of disagreement rank highest in one Member State: agriculture, food and fishery (Ireland), public health (Romania) and economy and the EU Single Market (Portugal). There is wide variation between Member States in the proportions that think migration and refugees is a main area of disagreement between the EU and the national government. This is mentioned by at least seven in ten respondents in Czechia (78%), Malta (72%) and Greece (70%), but only by 10% in Portugal and 16% in Romania.

22 Standard Eurobarometer 93. https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/2262

QA14T Among the following, which are, if any, the main areas of disagreement between (NATIONALITY) government and the EU? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



The environment and climate change is most commonly seen as an area of disagreement in Belgium and Ireland (both 35%) and Germany (34%), while agriculture, food and fishery is mentioned most frequently by respondents in Latvia (41%), the Netherlands (39%) and Finland (38%). Romania (40%) and Italy (31%) have the highest proportions that see public health as an area of disagreement. Other areas are mentioned less frequently in the survey overall, but by relatively high proportions in individual countries: foreign and security policy (52% in Greece), rule of law (59% in Slovenia and 46% in Poland), the euro and the EU's monetary policy (33% in Czechia), energy policy (28% in Belgium), education, science and culture (29% in Romania), fake news and disinformation (33% in Slovenia) and minority rights (28% in both Estonia and Latvia).

In the socio-demographic analysis, the main differences by gender are that women are more likely than men to say that public health is an area of disagreement between their national government and the EU, while men are more likely than women to mention the euro and the EU's monetary policy. By age, younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to say that there is disagreement concerning minority rights and education, science and culture, while older people are more likely to say that there is disagreement over the rule of law and agriculture, food and fishery. More highly educated respondents are more inclined to specify several of the issues as being areas of disagreement: migration and refugees, rule of law and energy policy. However, less educated respondents are more likely to mention public health.

There are also differences according to respondents' overall image of the EU. Where this is positive, they are more likely to say that rule of law and environment and climate change are areas of disagreement. If their image of the EU is negative, they are more likely to mention public health and freedom of speech.

QA14T Among the following, which are, if any, the main areas of disagreement between (NATIONALITY) government and the EU? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

	Migration and refugees	Environment, climate change	Agriculture, food and fishery	Public health	Foreign and security policy	Economy and the EU Single Market	Rule of law	The euro and the EU's monetary policy	Energy policy	Education, science and culture	Fake news and disinformation	Minority rights (LGBTI, Roma, Disabled people, etc.)	Freedom of speech	Reproductive health rights (e.g. family planning, abortion, etc.)	Digital Single Market	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	47	20	20	19	17	17	16	14	12	11	9	9	8	6	4	1	9
BE	45	35	17	15	14	12	8	6	28	9	8	8	7	6	3	0	4
BG	27	11	10	20	12	13	30	17	14	9	13	13	15	3	6	1	16
CZ	78	13	17	2	12	12	14	33	18	2	18	9	5	1	2	0	1
DK	46	25	21	14	10	18	21	26	10	5	4	8	5	5	3	0	6
DE	59	34	20	9	21	10	22	11	16	7	7	6	4	4	3	2	6
EE	66	12	33	4	8	9	8	11	20	2	12	28	8	10	3	0	3
IE	25	35	37	13	16	17	11	16	17	5	10	4	3	8	9	1	5
EL	70	7	8	14	52	27	11	19	6	6	13	5	6	1	2	0	1
ES	42	9	21	25	9	17	11	8	7	17	10	3	7	2	2	1	21
FR	43	17	22	17	19	12	8	8	10	6	9	9	14	5	3	2	16
HR	26	13	21	27	20	28	29	21	11	17	10	8	11	8	7	0	4
IT	50	14	16	31	21	28	5	20	11	13	6	6	6	6	5	1	9
CY	50	10	7	19	29	12	15	4	7	11	12	3	4	2	2	3	21
LV	43	10	41	15	10	20	11	5	10	13	12	28	5	3	2	0	5
LT	34	14	29	14	18	18	16	11	20	12	21	18	9	8	2	0	2
LU	42	21	14	19	20	19	12	13	16	11	12	5	6	5	5	2	6
HU	67	11	12	19	16	13	37	10	7	11	19	10	11	6	3	0	2
MT	72	18	11	8	7	5	24	3	6	3	16	3	10	18	3	5	8
NL	55	32	39	6	11	26	16	27	8	3	5	11	11	3	0	1	3
AT	55	30	26	18	30	14	13	12	17	16	5	7	5	4	4	3	4
PL	26	22	13	26	13	13	46	12	13	13	9	20	12	15	5	0	4
PT	10	5	16	19	8	20	3	6	4	10	17	9	2	6	6	4	36
RO	16	11	19	40	16	21	13	19	6	29	16	7	8	5	7	1	9
SI	46	11	11	12	16	13	59	4	6	4	33	7	18	4	2	0	3
SK	54	14	22	23	13	17	10	7	10	13	13	19	12	7	4	1	8
FI	40	22	38	3	14	22	20	28	17	2	7	5	5	4	1	1	5
SE	55	24	25	6	7	14	11	19	12	2	4	15	6	9	1	1	8

Highest percentage per country *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item Lowest percentage per item

QA14T Among the following, which are, if any, the main areas of disagreement between (NATIONALITY) government and the EU? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Migration and refugees	Environment, climate change	Agriculture, food and fishery	Public health	Foreign and security policy	Economy and the EU Single Market	Rule of law	The euro and the EU's monetary policy	Energy policy
EU27	47	20	20	19	17	17	16	14	12
Gender									
Man	47	20	21	17	19	17	18	16	14
Woman	47	20	19	21	16	16	15	12	10
Age									
15-24	43	21	14	20	14	15	12	12	9
25-39	45	21	16	20	16	18	16	14	13
40-54	47	18	20	20	19	18	17	15	13
55+	48	20	23	18	19	15	18	13	12
Education (End of)									
15-	41	16	21	26	15	14	11	11	7
16-19	45	20	19	22	19	16	18	13	12
20+	51	21	22	14	18	18	18	16	14
Still studying	47	21	14	18	15	16	12	13	11
Image of EU									
Positive	47	21	20	16	17	16	20	14	13
Neutral	46	20	18	23	17	17	13	13	11
Negative	48	16	21	21	20	18	13	17	11

	Education, science and culture	Fake news and disinformation	Minority rights (LGBTI, Roma, Disabled people, etc.)	Freedom of speech	Reproductive health rights (e.g. family planning, abortion, etc.)	Digital Single Market	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	11	9	9	8	6	4	1	9
Gender								
Man	10	9	7	8	4	4	1	8
Woman	11	9	10	8	7	3	1	11
Age								
15-24	15	10	13	11	7	5	1	11
25-39	12	11	9	9	7	5	1	7
40-54	10	9	7	8	6	4	1	8
55+	9	8	7	7	4	3	1	11
Education (End of)								
15-	11	7	5	6	3	2	1	20
16-19	12	10	8	9	6	4	1	9
20+	8	8	10	7	5	4	1	7
Still studying	14	10	13	10	6	4	1	10
Image of EU								
Positive	10	9	10	6	6	4	1	8
Neutral	11	9	7	9	5	4	1	11
Negative	10	10	7	11	4	3	2	7

Items mentioned by more than 10%

MEDIA USE AND RECALL

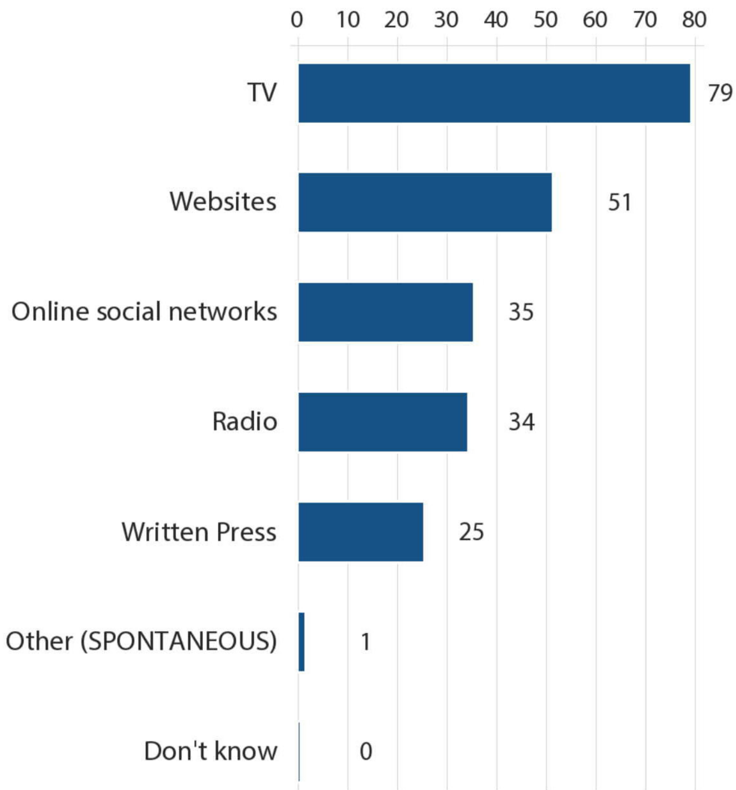
The final section of the report looks at the ways EU citizens use different types of media and the information that they get about the European Parliament.

The role of the Internet and social media in providing information to citizens has come under scrutiny in recent years, and this is particularly relevant given concerns about misleading information about vaccination and other issues during the pandemic.

General media usage

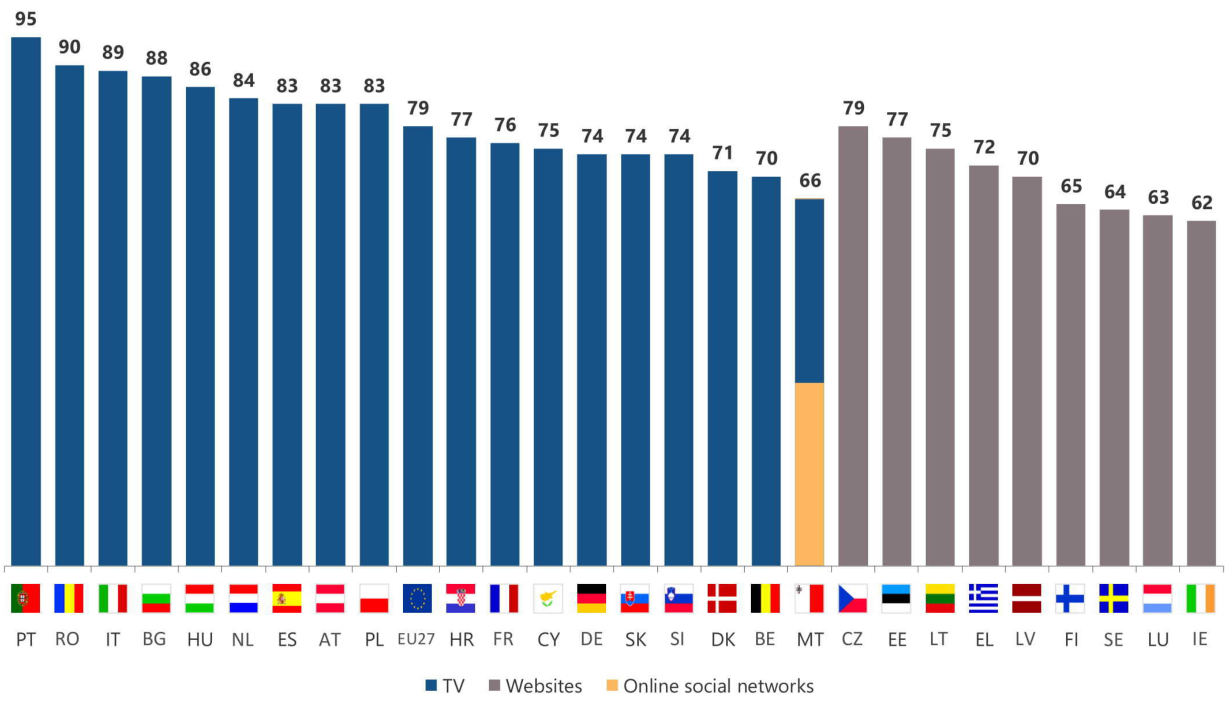
Around eight in ten citizens (79%) say that TV was one of their most used media in the previous seven days, followed by websites (51%), online social networks (35%), and radio (34%) and the written press (25%).

QA13T Which of the following media did you use the most in the last 7 days? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)



There are 18 Member States where TV is the most commonly used media channel, while websites rank highest in nine countries. In Malta, websites and online social networks rank joint highest.

QA13T Which of the following media did you use the most in the last 7 days? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



There are differences in media usage between socio-demographic groups. Men are more likely than women to have made use of websites, but women are more likely than men to say they used online social networks.

There are clear patterns by age, with younger people much more likely to use websites and, in particular, online social networks, while older people make much greater use of radio and the written press than younger people, and are also more likely to use TV.

In terms of education, more highly educated respondents are more likely to make use of websites and online social networks, and are less likely to have used TV or radio. Usage of the written press does not vary by level of education.

QA13T Which of the following media did you use the most in the last 7 days? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) **(% - EU)**

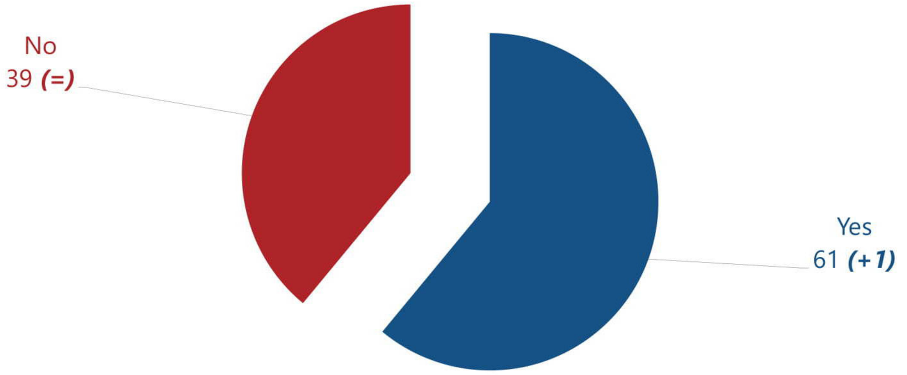
	TV	Websites	Online social networks	Radio	Written Press	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	79	51	35	34	25	1	0
Gender							
Man	78	55	33	34	27	1	0
Woman	81	47	37	34	24	1	0
Age							
15-24	60	69	72	16	11	1	1
25-39	68	69	53	26	13	1	0
40-54	80	59	33	35	22	1	0
55+	91	31	15	43	38	2	0
Education (End of)							
15-	96	19	16	43	28	3	0
16-19	86	46	33	36	25	1	0
20+	73	63	33	34	29	1	0
Still studying	56	74	72	15	12	1	1
Image of EU							
Positive	79	54	35	35	27	1	0
Neutral	81	48	35	33	23	1	0
Negative	76	50	33	34	25	2	0
Image of European Parliament							
Positive	79	54	35	35	30	1	0
Neutral	80	49	35	34	23	1	0
Negative	76	52	35	33	24	1	0

Information about the European Parliament

Citizens' perceptions of the European Parliament and other institutions are influenced by what they see, hear and read in the media and other sources. It is worth noting initially that there are very high levels of awareness of the European Parliament and other European institutions. In the Standard Eurobarometer, around nine in ten citizens say they have heard of the European Parliament, and this has been consistent over time.

Around six in ten EU citizens (61%, +1 pp since September-October 2017) say that they have recently read, seen or heard something about the European Parliament, either from the Internet, television or radio.

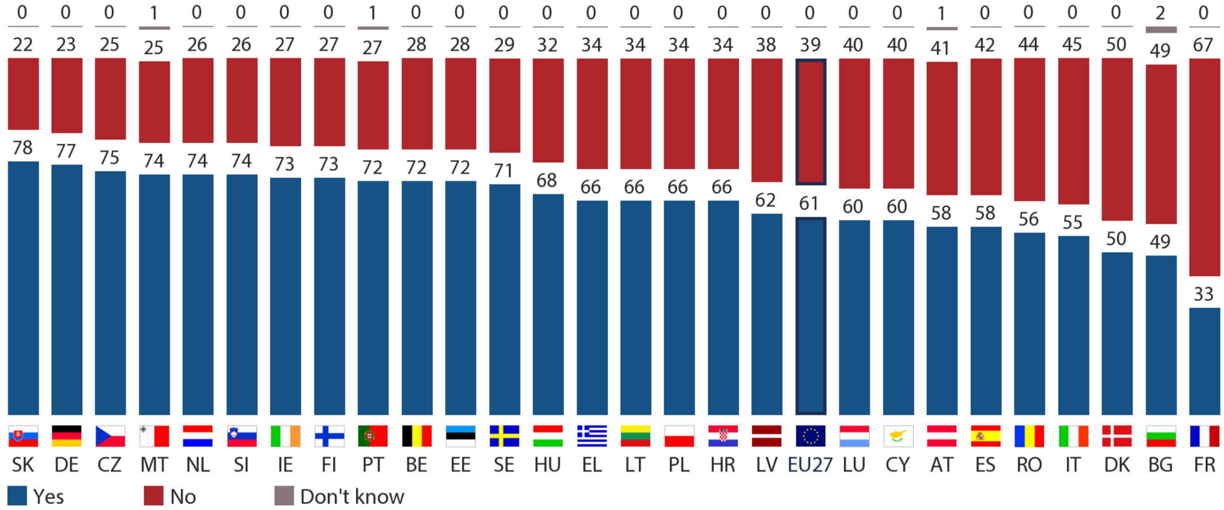
QA1 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament?
(% - EU)



(Nov.-Dec. 2020, EB94.2 - Sept.-Oct. 2017, EB88.1)

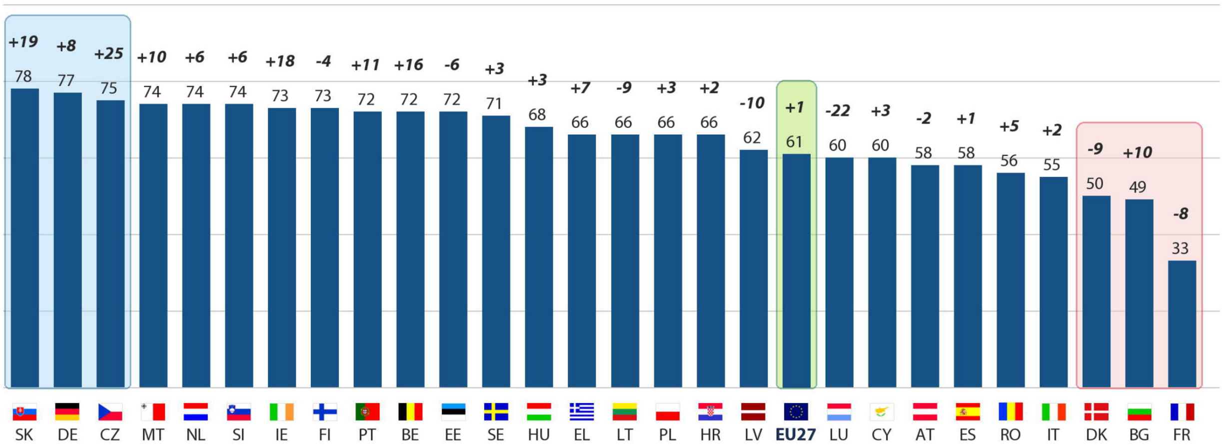
There is some variation in the proportions in each country that say they have recently read, seen or heard something about the European Parliament. In 13 Member States, more than two-thirds of respondents say they have read, seen or heard something recently, led by Slovakia (78%), Germany (77%) and Czechia (75%). However, only a third of respondents in France (33%) say they have recently read, seen or heard something about the European Parliament, as do around a half of respondents in Bulgaria (49%) and Denmark (50%).

QA1 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament?
(%)



While there has been little change at the overall EU level since 2017, there have been some substantial changes at the country level. Large increases can be seen in Czechia (75%, +25 pp), Slovakia (78%, +19 pp), Ireland (73%, +18 pp) and Belgium (72%, +16 pp), while the largest decreases are seen in Luxembourg (60%, -22 pp) and Latvia (62%, -10 pp).

QA1 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament?
(% - YES)



Nov.-Dec. 2020 (EB94.2) - 88.1

The socio-demographic findings indicate that men are more likely than women to say they have recently read, seen or heard something about the European Parliament (64% compared with 58%), while the proportion increases with age, from 47% among 15-24 year olds to 65% among those aged 55 or over. More highly educated people are more likely to say they have read, seen or heard something recently (70% of those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above).

Respondents who have a positive image of the European Parliament are most likely to say they have read, seen or heard something recently (75%), followed by those who have a negative image (60%), while the lowest level is among those with a neutral image of the European Parliament (51%). This suggests that there is a relationship between the image people have and the amount that they read, see or hear about the European Parliament, although it is not clear how the two factors interact – i.e. whether receiving information leads to a stronger or more positive image, or whether people who hold a stronger image are more likely to look for information.

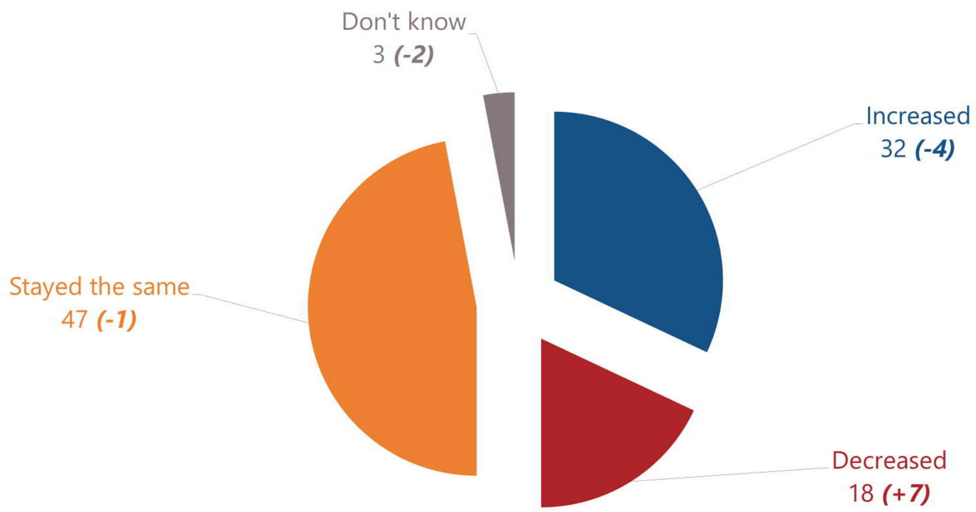
QA1 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament?
(% - EU)

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	61	39	0
Gender			
Man	64	36	0
Woman	58	42	0
Age			
15-24	47	53	0
25-39	59	41	0
40-54	64	36	0
55+	65	35	0
Education (End of)			
15-	50	50	0
16-19	59	41	0
20+	70	30	0
Still studying	53	47	0
Image of European Parliament			
Positive	75	25	0
Neutral	51	49	0
Negative	60	40	0

Presence of EU affairs

A third of citizens (32%, -4 pp compared with October 2019) say that the presence of the EU affairs in the media has increased in the last 12 months, greater than the proportion that say it has decreased (18%, +7 pp). Around half of respondents (47%, -1 pp) say the media presence of EU affairs has stayed the same compared with 12 months ago.

QA2 And would you say that in general the presence of EU affairs in the media has increased, decreased or stayed the same compared to 12 months ago?
(% - EU)



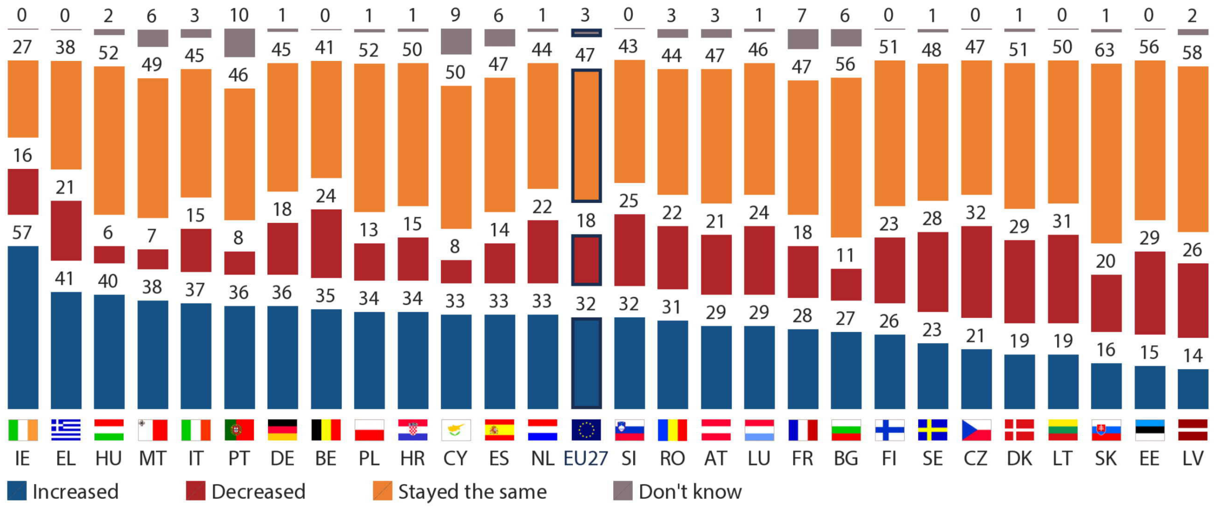
(Nov.-Dec. 2020, EB94.2 - Oct. 2019, EB92.2)

In most countries, the majority view is that the media presence of EU affairs has stayed the same compared with 12 months ago, and this proportion is particularly high in Slovakia (63%), Latvia (58%), Bulgaria and Estonia (both 56%). The two exceptions are Ireland and Greece, where a majority say that the presence of the EU affairs in the media has increased.

More than half of respondents in Ireland (57%) say that the presence of the EU affairs in the media has increased in the last 12 months, considerably higher than in any other country. Otherwise, the proportion ranges from 41% in Greece to 14% in Latvia.

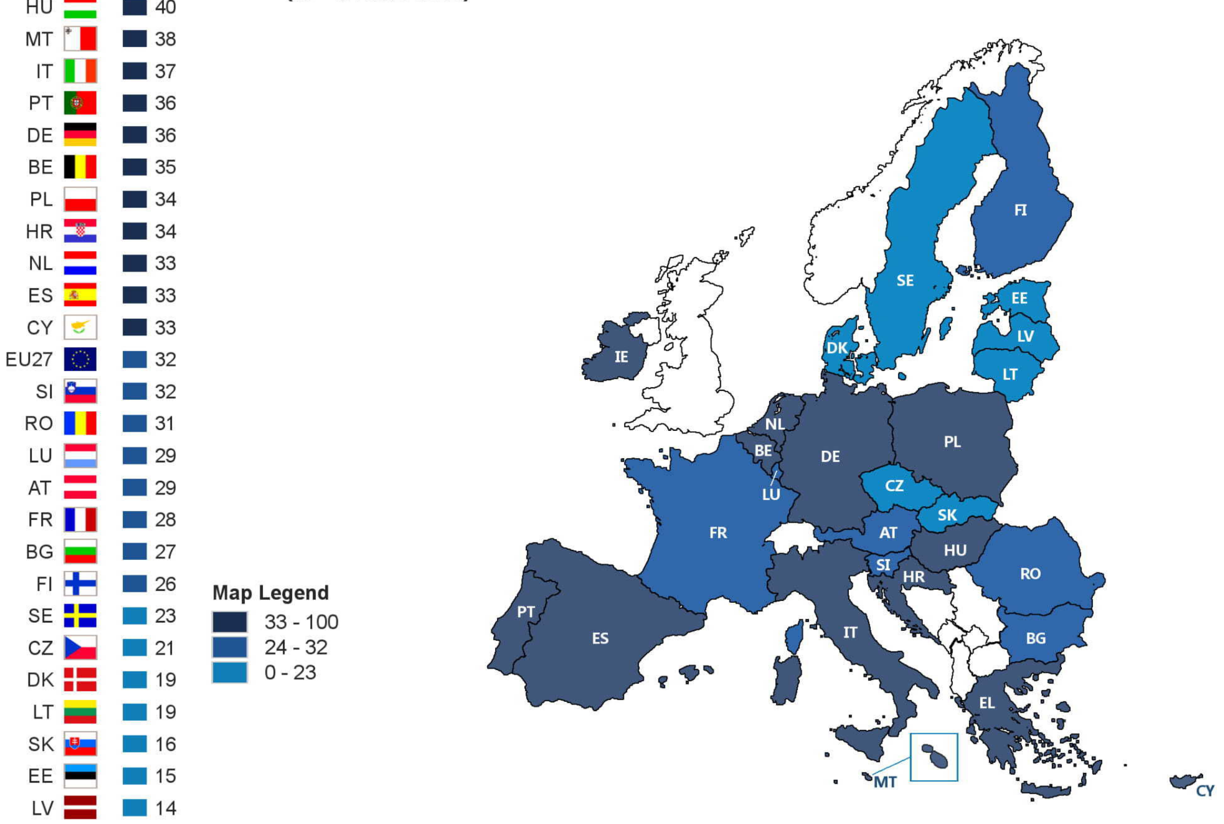
Respondents are most likely to say that the media presence of EU affairs has decreased in Czechia (32%) and Lithuania (31%), but this is much lower in Hungary (6%), Malta (7%), Portugal and Cyprus (both 8%).

QA2 And would you say that in general the presence of EU affairs in the media has increased, decreased or stayed the same compared to 12 months ago?
(%)



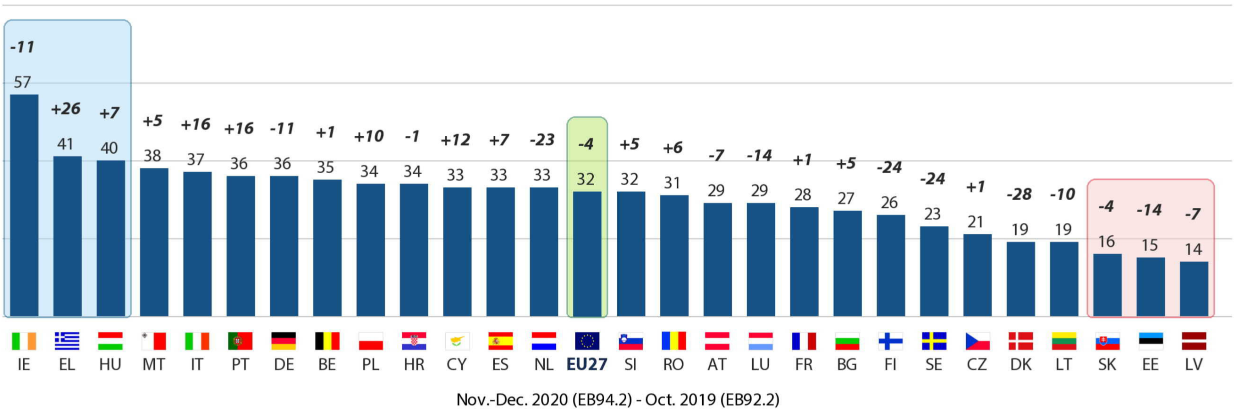
The proportion that say the presence of EU affairs in the media has increased in the last 12 months ranges from 57% in Ireland to 14% in Latvia. In general, countries in the south of Europe tend to have higher proportions of citizens saying the EU's presence in the media has increased.

QA2 And would you say that in general the presence of EU affairs in the media has increased, decreased or stayed the same compared to 12 months ago?
(% - INCREASED)



There have been some large changes since October 2019, with respondents in Nordic countries much less likely to say the EUs' media presence has increased: Denmark (19%, -28 pp), Sweden (23%, -24 pp), Finland (26%, -24 pp), and also the Netherlands (33%, -23 pp). By contrast, respondents are much more likely there has been an increase in the EU's media presence in Greece (41%, + 26 pp), Italy (37%, +16 pp) and Portugal (36%, +16 pp).

QA2 And would you say that in general the presence of EU affairs in the media has increased, decreased or stayed the same compared to 12 months ago?
(% - INCREASED)



The socio-demographic analysis shows a broadly consistent picture in terms of whether people think the presence of the EU affairs in the media has increased in the last 12 months. Respondents are more likely to say there has been an increase if they are younger (36% of 15-24 year olds), more highly educated (34% of those who finished education aged 20 or above) or self-employed (39%). In general, respondents who have a positive image of the EU are more likely to say the media presence has increased (39%).

QA2 And would you say that in general the presence of EU affairs in the media has increased, decreased or stayed the same compared to 12 months ago?
(% - EU)

	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same	Don't know
EU27	32	18	47	3
Gender				
Man	33	18	47	2
Woman	32	18	46	4
Age				
15-24	36	16	43	5
25-39	34	20	44	2
40-54	33	19	46	2
55+	31	16	50	3
Education (End of)				
15-	26	15	52	7
16-19	32	16	49	3
20+	34	20	44	2
Still studying	37	17	41	5
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	38	19	42	1
Managers	34	22	43	1
Other white collars	34	18	46	2
Manual workers	31	17	49	3
House persons	31	15	47	7
Unemployed	30	17	49	4
Retired	30	16	50	4
Students	37	17	41	5
Image of EU				
Positive	39	15	44	2
Neutral	25	17	53	5
Negative	28	28	41	3

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 20th November and 21st December 2020, Kantar carried out the wave 94.2 of the EUROBAROMETER survey. The wave 94.2 includes the European Parliament's "Parlemeter 2020" and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all States where a face to face mode of data collection has been feasible is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to their population size.

The sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas[23].

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "last birthday rule"). If no one answered the interviewer in a household, or if the respondent selected was not available (not present or busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European Parliament beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase differed slightly in the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark. In these countries, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km2 grid) were selected from the address or population register. The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey.

23 Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background)

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27
BE	Belgium	Kantar Belgium (Kantar TNS)	1.055	03/12/2020	21/12/2020	9.188.369	2,45%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1.038	24/11/2020	21/12/2020	5.995.194	1,60%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar CZ	1.150	04/12/2020	21/12/2020	8.956.740	2,39%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1.017	24/11/2020	21/12/2020	4.848.611	1,29%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1.686	24/11/2020	21/12/2020	71.728.398	19,10%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Emor	1.020	04/12/2020	21/12/2020	1.073.224	0,29%
IE	Ireland	Kantar Belgium	1.018	04/12/2020	21/12/2020	3.896.482	1,04%
EL	Greece	Taylor Nelson Sofres Market Research	1.002	03/12/2020	21/12/2020	9.187.524	2,45%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1.004	25/11/2020	16/12/2020	40.006.943	10,65%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1.003	23/11/2020	16/12/2020	52.732.499	14,04%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1.019	23/11/2020	20/12/2020	3.488.460	0,93%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1.022	23/11/2020	21/12/2020	52.397.331	13,95%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	507	20/11/2020	12/12/2020	734.695	0,20%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1.021	24/11/2020	21/12/2020	1.568.124	0,42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.043	03/12/2020	21/12/2020	2.300.257	0,61%
LU	Luxembourg	Kantar Belgium	529	03/12/2020	21/12/2020	503.275	0,13%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1.072	27/11/2020	21/12/2020	8.351.017	2,22%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	585	28/11/2020	21/12/2020	426.055	0,11%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.006	23/11/2020	16/12/2020	14.165.638	3,77%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1.024	20/11/2020	21/12/2020	7.580.083	2,02%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1.019	26/11/2020	21/12/2020	32.139.021	8,56%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1.012	24/11/2020	21/12/2020	8.869.051	2,36%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1.070	23/11/2020	18/12/2020	16.372.216	4,36%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1.034	07/12/2020	21/12/2020	1.767.202	0,47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Slovakia	1.106	23/11/2020	21/12/2020	4.592.379	1,22%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1.096	03/12/2020	21/12/2020	4.488.064	1,20%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1.055	24/11/2020	21/12/2020	8.149.850	1,90%
		TOTAL EU27	27.213	20/11/2020	21/12/2020	375.506.702	100%*

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding.

** Recruitments in Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg are carried out by Kantar, Ronin International, Datacollect, Infas, Wittcall and Kraemer. Non-probabilistic sample in Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg and Malta was randomly drawn from Kantar's LifePoints panel and from Norstat panel in Lithuania.

Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

In summary:

All interviews were conducted face to face in Bulgaria, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal and Romania.

Face to face mode was complemented with online interviews in Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Sweden.

All interviews were conducted online in Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovenia.

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium		1.055	1.055
BG	Bulgaria	1.038		1.038
CZ	Czechia		1.150	1.150
DK	Denmark	298	719	1.017
DE	Germany	1.349	337	1.686
EE	Estonia		1.020	1.020
IE	Ireland		1.018	1.018
EL	Greece		1.002	1.002
ES	Spain	1.004		1.004
FR	France	1.003		1.003
HR	Croatia	1.019		1.019
IT	Italy	1.022		1.022
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	507		507
LV	Latvia	158	863	1.021
LT	Lithuania		1.043	1.043
LU	Luxembourg		529	529
HU	Hungary	1.072		1.072
MT	Malta	254	331	585
NL	Netherlands	1.006		1.006
AT	Austria	1.024		1.024
PL	Poland	1.019		1.019
PT	Portugal	1.012		1.012
RO	Romania	1.070		1.070
SI	Slovenia		1.034	1.034
SK	Slovakia	894	212	1.106
FI	Finland		1.096	1.096
SE	Sweden	166	889	1055
	TOTAL EU27	14.915	12.298	27.213

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing
CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing

In more detail:

Fieldwork was conducted only via face to face in Bulgaria, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal and Romania.

In all countries where face-to-face interviewing was feasible, CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used in people's homes or on their doorstep and in the appropriate national language. For all interviews conducted face-to-face, hygiene and physical distancing measures have always been respected in line with governments' regulations. Whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, to remain in open air and maintain social distance.

The face-to-face mode was complemented with online interviews in Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Sweden. In these countries, it was not possible to reach the target number of face-to-face interviews within the fieldwork period due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions: many potential respondents are reluctant to open their homes to interviewers, even if they respect hygiene and physical distancing, such as wearing masks and using hydroalcoholic gel. Therefore, to hit the target a number of interviews within the fieldwork period, additional interviews were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI technique).

Fieldwork was conducted with online interviews only in Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovenia.

Recruitment for online interviews:

The online design in each country differed based on what was feasible within the fieldwork period. In principle, the online sample was based on a probabilistic sample design: respondents were recruited in a probabilistic random manner, ensuring that all individuals in this country have an equal chance to be interviewed.

In Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Ireland and Slovakia respondents were recruited by telephone via a dual frame Random Digital Dialling (RDD) sample design. Telephone numbers were drawn from the national telephone numbering plans.

In Estonia and Finland, the respondents are recruited through a telephone survey. In Estonia a dual frame random sample is drawn from the national telephone numbering plans whilst in Denmark, Finland and Sweden a random sample is drawn from the telephone register.

In Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Slovenia and Lithuania, only people randomly selected through a probabilistically drawn sample were interviewed online. In Lithuania, this sample was supplemented with a non-probabilistic sample – see below.

Use of panels:

In Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta and Lithuania the response rates were not sufficiently large to achieve the target sample size in the fieldwork period, so this sample was supplemented with a non-probabilistic sample randomly drawn from Kantar's LifePoints panel, and in Lithuania, Norstat's panel. The LifePoints panel is Kantar's proprietary panel, used exclusively for Kantar clients and the lead source for Kantar's online work, generating close to 30 million completes per year. Members are recruited via online advertising across a wide range of web and social media sites. Adverts are placed with websites with very high footfalls to ensure maximised reach.

Response rates

For each country a comparison between the responding sample and the universe (i.e. the overall population in the country) is carried out. Weights are used to match the responding sample to the universe on gender by age, region and degree of urbanisation. For European estimates (i.e. EU average), an adjustment is made to the individual country weights, weighting them up or down to reflect their 15+ population as a proportion of the EU 15+ population.

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, excluding those that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For example, in Spain, RR is 35,06%: number of successful interviews=1016, number of addresses visited at least once=3159, and number of ineligible addresses=261.

For Eurobarometer 94.2, the response rates for the EU27, calculated by Kantar, are:

BE*	25,1%	EL*	29,8%	LU*	25,8%	SI*	42,0%
BG	47,7%	ES	35,1%	HU	62,3%	SK	65,3%
CZ*	51,8%	FR	28,4%	MT	71,2%	SK*	38,5%
DK	38,7%	HR	54,6%	MT*	31,8%	FI*	15,5%
DK*	22,1%	IT	20,5%	NL	69,3%	SE	53,2%
DE	18,7%	CY	39,8%	AT	43,4%	SE*	32,9%
DE*	30,7%	LV	36,1%	PL	44,0%		
EE*	22,3%	LV*	20,5%	PT	40,6%		
IE*	19,7%	LT*	23,4%	RO	62,1%		

*CAWI (for probabilistic sample) and without taking into account recruitment phase

Margins of error

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process
(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows *various observed results are in columns*

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6.0	8.3	9.9	11.1	12.0	12.7	13.2	13.6	13.8	13.9	N=50
N=500	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	N=500
N=1000	**1.4**	**1.9**	**2.2**	**2.5**	**2.7**	**2.8**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.1**	**3.1**	**N=1000**
N=1500	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	N=1500
N=2000	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	N=2000
N=3000	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	N=3000
N=4000	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	N=4000
N=5000	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	N=5000
N=6000	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	N=6000
N=7000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	N=7000
N=7500	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=7500
N=8000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=8000
N=9000	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=9000
N=10000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=10000
N=11000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=11000
N=12000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=12000
N=13000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	N=13000
N=14000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=14000
N=15000	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

PARLEMETER 2020 – A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EUROBAROMETER SURVEY

The Parlemeter 2020 was conducted as Eurobarometer survey 94.2 between 20 November and 21 December 2020 among 27.213 citizens from all 27 EU Member States by

KANTAR

The Parlemeter 2020 examines European citizens' views on their life during the pandemic and their personal outlook for the coming year. This report gives insight into citizens' views on the role and priorities of the European Parliament as well as on the image of the European Union and their perception of the EU membership benefits.

The interviews for this Eurobarometer were conducted face to face in most of the countries. Due to Covid-19 restrictions in force during fieldwork, face-to-face interviews were complemented in Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Sweden with online interviews. For the same reason, in a number of countries (Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovenia) all interviews had to be conducted online.

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